

TELECOM'S BIG BUYERS SQUEEZED

'Nightmare' rush for profits likely

By ROLAND GRIBBEN Business Correspondent

THE Government is braced for a political row over Opposition charges that British Telecom has been sold too cheaply after the announcement yesterday that the £3.9 billion issue was four times oversubscribed.

Applications worth £16.5 billion were made for the 86 per cent. of the stock on offer to British investors with an unprecedented 2,060,000 members of the public joining the international scramble for the "sale of the century."

But a million applicants will be disappointed because allocations have been cut. Many have been halved and 7,500 applicants seeking to buy batches of more than 100,000 shares have been squeezed out completely.

Mr. Patten, Information Technology Minister, will make a formal Commons statement today about what the Government regards as a runaway success.

He will face Opposition charges that the offer was under-priced at 150p a share. Telecom ends up with 2,300,000 shareholders and the biggest share register in Britain. The number of shares held by the public is 2,060,000.

Priority for small investors

In the wake of the cut in allocations for investors seeking large numbers of shares, City analysts were raising their estimates of the amount by which the price will exceed 150p when dealings start today.

The analysts were saying the early "profit" could run at 25p-40p a share. Dealings will start at 3 p.m. in the partly-paid 50p shares and one stock market jobber predicted: "It's going to be a nightmare."

Priority has been given to the small, mainly first time, investors the Government was anxious to encourage.

Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bankers handling the sale, of 50.2 per cent. of the State company for the Government, disclosed that about a million of the applications for the public were for 200 and 400 shares.

When will get their allotment in full but others will get considerably less. People applying for 800 shares get 500, those wanting 1,200 will be limited to 600 while applications for

New BA library—P6;
City report—P16

between 1,600 shares and 100,000 have been scaled down to only 800.

The 7,500 investors who wanted more than 100,000 shares and have been allocated none included some institutions seeking to top up their priority allocation.

The demand from the public has exceeded most expectations and Ministers feel that it will make it more difficult for a future Labour Government to fulfil its promise to re-nationalise the company.

The total number of shares sought by British investors including institutions was 12,750 million compared to the 2,537 million on offer. Two million of the applications from the public were for a total of 2,600 million shares, worth £338 million, an average of 1,300, representing an outlay of £16,900.

The remaining 60,000 public applications were for totals of more than 10,000 shares. They included more than 5,000 applications from institutions and other big investors, many in nominee names, who presented 15 minute cheques worth £1 billion.

**Discounts on bills
scaled down**

The scaling down means that no members of the public, apart from some British Telecom staff, will be able to qualify for the maximum inducements offered to buyers.

The Government offered 218 discounts on quarterly telephone bills up to a maximum of 12 on a share allocation of 2,400 with the alternative of a one-fifth share bonus after three years for holdings up to 4,000.

The maximum number of vouchers available under the terms of the allotment will be 2,000.



Contrasting moods—Mr Scargill arriving at TUC headquarters and Mr Herbert Brewer, the receiver, leaving Heathrow to claim £4.6 million of the NUM's funds held in a Luxembourg bank.

EFFORT TO STOP TORY REBELLION

By JAMES WIGHTMAN Political Correspondent

THE Prime Minister and Sir Keith Joseph, Education Secretary, were hoping yesterday that a threatened Conservative rebellion over cuts in students' grants could be defused by Whips without the Government having to make a compromise.

They feel that, although some 150 Tory MPs have signed two Commons early day motions deploring the cuts, only a much smaller number are prepared to vote against the Government or abstain.

Other Ministers were less confident yesterday. They believed the Government faces its worst internal revolt since 1979 and that Mrs Thatcher and Sir Keith will have to back down.

Some were suggesting an early meeting between Sir Keith and Mr Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in an attempt to find funds from elsewhere to avert the £39 million cutback.

Resigning matter

Sir Keith, who has dropped hints that he might consider the issue, a resigning matter, is to face his critics at a meeting of Conservative backbench education committee tomorrow night. He may also meet members of the 1922 Committee, representing all Conservative backbenchers, today.

The prime responsibility for the grants changes rests with Sir Keith who agreed to the cutback in the round of annual public expenditure talks which Mr. Ministers had with the Treasury. He felt that the money saved should go towards scientific research.

Mrs Thatcher and Sir Keith will receive reports from the Whips in advance of a Commons debate on Thursday on the public expenditure review which included the education cuts.

The debate will be on a Government motion seeking the House's approval of the Chancellor's annual statement on the public expenditure review.

The Opposition is expected to table an amendment, which could provide the chance for any rebel Tories to vote against the Government or abstain.

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HAWKE'S VICTORY

By Our Melbourne Correspondent

Mr Robert Hawke led Australia's Labour party to its predictable victory in Saturday's general election, but with a reduced majority. With 85 per cent of votes counted by yesterday, it was predicted he would have a "mass" majority, down from 28.

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SAS man killed in battle with IRA

By KENNETH CLARKE in Dublin

A MEMBER of an SAS patrol was killed during a gun battle with an IRA gang near the Eire-Ulster border yesterday. A civilian involved in the battle also died.

The shoot-out started when the SAS patrol encountered a van load of suspected terrorists near the village of Kesh, Co. Fermanagh. Local people said the fighting lasted at least 15 minutes with "bullets and flares flying everywhere."

The dead SAS man was named as Lt. Cpl. Alastair Slater, 28, a bachelor, who had a home near SAS headquarters at Hereford.

Public school boy

Born in Leicestershire, where his father is a chemist, Cpl Slater joined the Army in 1975 from Region, the public school.

He was previously a sergeant in the 1st Bn. Parachute Regiment and had been serving with the SAS for two years.

The dead civilian was named by the RUC as Anthony John McBride, 27, of Magherafelt, Co. Londonderry. He was sentenced to three years' imprisonment in October 1979 for possession of firearms.

In the van used by the terrorist gang were beer kegs, which are often used to make bombs, and a small quantity of explosives. A wire leading to a suspect bomb was also found.

After the shooting, there was a huge security sweep on both sides of the border.

The netted two men picked up by the Irish police between Pettigo and Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal. They were in a hijacked car which failed to stop at a checkpoint and was chased.

The police said one of the men is Seamus Clarke, 28, one of 18 men still on the run after a mass break-out of IRA men from the Maze Prison in September last year.

**SIX HELD OVER
£380,000 RAID**

By Our Crime Staff

Six men were helping police inquired last night into the £380,000 robbery last week in which the roof of a security van was ripped off with a mechanical digger near Redhill. Survivors of the robbery were being questioned at various Surrey police stations. Two others who had been questioned were released yesterday.

ENVOY FOUND SHOT

The Turkish Ambassador to the Irish Republic, Mr Gunduz Cstun, was found with serious gunshot wounds at his official residence in Dublin yesterday. Police said no-one else was thought to have been involved.

LOST £1m HUNT

Two people were being held by police in Camborne last night in connection with inquiries into the whereabouts of more than £1 million in home loans funds, and of Mr Jim Double, the 35-year-old Cornwall solicitor from whose office the money disappeared.

RECEIVER TO ACT TODAY

By TERENCE SHAW Legal Correspondent

MR Herbert Brewer, the Derbyshire solicitor appointed by the High Court as receiver of the £3,900,000 assets of the National Union of Mineworkers, will today seek to return to Britain £4,650,000 of the union's cash held in a Luxembourg bank.

Armed with the High Court order appointing him as receiver, he is expected to go to the bank, Nobis Finance International, this morning to lay claim to funds transferred to Luxembourg in an attempt to avoid their seizure by court sequestrators.

If the bank accepts that his authority as receiver entitles him to the money, it could be transferred back to London within hours.

But to protect itself, the bank may decide that it should first obtain a ruling of a Luxembourg court on Mr Brewer's claim and this could mean a delay.

Working with sequestrators

As receiver Mr Brewer is working in conjunction with the sequestrators appointed by the High Court after the union failed to pay a £200,000 contempt of court fine.

His powers are those of a trustee of the union's funds while the sequestrators have rights of possession.

If Mr Brewer is successful in securing the return to Britain of the union's assets held abroad, they would come under the control of the sequestrators until the union had paid the fine and costs of the sequestration and purged its contempt.

While the appointment of the sequestrators continues, Mr Brewer would need their consent—and possibly that of the High Court—before he could go ahead with his hopes to use some of the funds to help miners' families in hardship this Christmas.

If the union leaders are to comply with court orders and not risk further penalties for contempt, they will be held in the Luxembourg bank to hold the money there to the order of the sequestrators.

This was one of the injunctions granted to the sequestrators by Mr Justice Nicholls last Friday, together with court orders requiring the union leaders not to withdraw or transfer funds from accounts abroad except with written consent of the sequestrators.

These orders were directed to Mr Arthur Scargill, union president, to Michael McGahy, vice-president, and Mr Peter Heathfield, general secretary, together with Mr Trevor Cave, the union's head of administration, and Mr Stephen Hudson, its chief finance officer. The sequestrators have already named the names of Mr Cave and Mr Hudson.

£2.7m. in Dublin

Another £2,700,000 of union funds is held in a Zurich bank account in the names of Mr Scargill, Mr McGahy, and Mr Heathfield, and a further £2,700,000 is temporarily frozen in an account in the Bank of Ireland Finance, Dublin.

It was alleged in the High Court last week by counsel for the sequestrators that the union's leaders had already committed grave contempt by seeking to negate the effects of the sequestration by maintaining funds abroad and seeking to remove freezing orders obtained in Luxembourg and Ireland.

But the only contempt proceedings so far have been those brought by two Yorkshire miners against the union and Mr Scargill for defying court orders they had obtained to stop the union's leaders declaring the strike in Yorkshire official and threatening disciplinary action against miners who crossed picket lines.

It was for defiance of these court orders that the union was fined £200,000 and Mr Scargill, £1,000. Mr Scargill's fine was later paid by an anonymous donor.

Today's Weather

GENERAL SYNOPTIC: Frontal trough will move into E. Britain.

Weather Maps—P22

Scargill calls conference on funds crisis

By STEPHEN WARD Industrial Staff

THE national executive of the miners' union decided last night to call a special delegate conference this afternoon to decide what steps to take following the appointment of a receiver to control the union's £3.9 million assets.

At least two full-time officials of the TUC attended the seven-hour executive and it appeared last night that Mr Arthur Scargill, NUM president, was attempting to use the receiver's appointment as a rallying point for increased support from other unions and the Labour party.

Mr Ken Graham, assistant general secretary of the TUC attended the NUM executive meeting, but it was not clear whether Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, was also there.

In a brief statement after the meeting, which was held at the TUC headquarters in London, Mr Scargill said the decision by the High Court to appoint a receiver was without precedent.

In a clear attempt to make the point that the NUM's plight should concern the wider trade union movement, he said the appointment of a receiver "poses the most fundamental threat to every trade union in the country as well as putting at immediate risk the existence of the NUM."

He went on: "The decision to appoint a receiver for the first time in the history of the British trade union movement threatens us with a situation in which it could become almost impossible for the national union to carry out its day-to-day operations."

'Vital services'

These included services for the membership such as social welfare and "a whole host of other vital services on which the membership depends."

He said the NUM's financial trustees, who are Mr Scargill, Mr Peter Heathfield, general secretary, and Mr Michael McGahy, vice president, had at all times acted in accordance with the policy and instructions.

Continued on Back P. Col 2

**TWO ACCUSED
OF TAXI DEATH**

Two miners accused of murdering the taxi-driver Mr David Wilkie were remanded in custody until Thursday when they appeared at Merthyr Tydfil on Saturday.

They are Russell Shankland, 20, of Mansel Street, Rhymney, and Mid-Glamorgan, and Reinald Dean Hancock, 21, of Rhymney Bridge, Rhymney.

'Right to work'

Mr Tree's wife, Sandra, also a licensed taxi driver, said: "If someone provided the vehicle, I would drive it myself. These miners have a right to work. I cannot say how I am going to feel in the morning but I just don't see how I can't see why this job is any different to picking up any other customer."

Donations to an appeal for Mr Wilkie's family, include £200 collected by police on a South Wales picket line and a Cardiff shopkeeper has offered new cycles to Mr Wilkie's two children.

Thousands flee after guerrilla raids

By OUR COLOMBO CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of people were said to have fled from their homes after renewed violence in Sri Lanka yesterday.

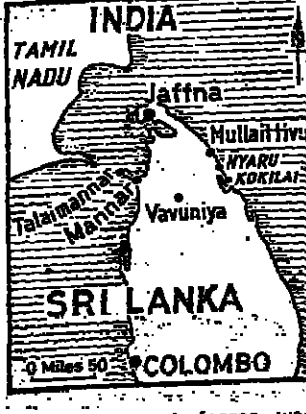
A Government spokesman said separatist Tamil guerrillas killed 11 people in attacks on two fishing villages in northern Sri Lanka.

He added that an earlier official statement that 57 people had been killed was incorrect.

The spokesman reported that guerrillas killed seven people in the village of Kokkila and four in nearby Nyaru in simultaneous attacks.

Huts destroyed

The guerrillas, fighting for a separate state in the North and East of Sri Lanka where most of the country's minority Tamil population lives, burned the premises of the Government members of the majority Sinhalese community.



said Government forces were fighting a 100-strong guerrilla group at the port of Talaimannar.

Saying that there was proof of a new terrorist offensive, Mr Lalith Athipaththani, National Security Minister, declared: "We will fight them on the beaches."

After a Government announcement that a flotilla of 18 boats carrying guerrillas and trying to cross over from India to Sri Lanka on Friday night had been driven back, it was reported that six more boats were destroyed yesterday.

The Indian Government denied Sri Lankan charges that separatist guerrillas were being retained in southern India to invade the island, and said Colombo was building up a "war psychosis."

Confidential reports last night

THIRD DEAD WHALE

A 20ft whale washed up on the beach near Weymouth, Dorset, yesterday was the third found dead in the area over the last four days. Fishermen are to ask the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to investigate.

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NCB SACKS 450 INVOLVED IN STRIKE TROUBLE

By MAURICE WEAVER Industrial Staff

MORE than 450 miners have been sacked by the Coal Board during the pit strike for serious criminal offences or acts of "gross industrial misconduct."

A further 100 cases are being considered for possible dismissal as the management takes an increasingly tough approach to violence and vandalism.

However, more than 2,000 men convicted of criminal offences will be allowed to return to their jobs after the dispute. Details of offences will be entered on their employment records.

Coal Board officials believe that the death last week of Mr. David Wilkie, a South Wales taxi driver whose car was hit by concrete blocks dropped from a bridge, will make colliery managers less willing to take back miners who have been involved in strike violence or lawlessness.

Police and Coal Board officials were dismayed that Mr. Scargill, miners' president, during his address at a Labour rally in Stoke-on-Trent on Friday, dissociated his union from the South Wales incident but avoided a general condemnation of picket line violence.

Relevant sentence

Lord Cheevers from Mr. Scargill's supporters in the hall prevented reporters hearing the end of the relevant sentence in his speech. Radio tapes have since shown his full text to be: "The NUM dissociates itself from any acts of this kind which occur anywhere away from the picket lines."

It is on picket lines that the vast majority of the 8,460 arrests have been made during the dispute.

Of those arrested 7,100 have been charged but fewer than half of these have so far been dealt with by the courts, despite the use of extra magistrates.

The majority of those sacked by the Coal Board figured among the 2,740 convictions which have resulted from incidents on picket lines or in mining communities.

Seventy-three of these convictions resulted in prison sentences, the longest being nine months. Fifteen young offenders, mostly trainee miners, have been sent to detention centres.

More sackings

With 3,617 strike-related charges still to be heard and the scale of violence growing it is clear that many more miners could be receiving dismissal notices.

Dismissal in this way means the loss of the right to notice and the freezing of pension rights at the time of departure. But most serious for miners is the absence of alternative work in their industry and in many areas, any other industries.

The decision on dismissal is left to local pit managers. In cases of violence, intimidation or sabotage it is almost certain.

Where lesser offences are concerned, such as obstruction or breach of the peace, which together account for roughly two-thirds of all strike arrests, it is left to the local executive's discretion.

In addition to dismissing miners convicted in the courts, the Coal Board has also sacked

NUM loses appeal over receivership

By TERENCE SHAW Legal Correspondent

MINERS' union leaders lost their appeal against the temporary appointment of a Derbyshire solicitor to take charge of union assets at a rare weekend sitting of the Appeal Court.

Three Appeal Court judges, headed by Lord Justice Stephenson, said the receivership order made by Mr Justice Mervyn Davies on Friday was "drastic and unusual."

But it was justified because an undertaking offered by the miners' union leaders not to move their funds from Luxembourg until noon next Friday was unacceptable without further assurances that they would obey both "past and future" orders of the court.

The receiver, Mr Herbert Brewer, left for Luxembourg last night accompanied by Mr Brian Larkins, one of the four chartered accountants from Price Waterhouse, who were appointed by the court in October as sequestrators of the union's assets after it failed to pay a £240,000 contempt of court fine.

The sequestrators traced the £463,000 to Nobis Franx International, a Luxembourg bank, and succeeded in having it temporarily frozen. But on Thursday the Luxembourg courts, after an application by the union leaders, ruled that the sequestrators' claim to the money was "inadmissible" under Luxembourg law and lifted their order.

This led to fears that the union leaders might seek to move the money on to other secret bank accounts even though they would be in contempt of English court orders.

In an emergency move to prevent this, 16 working miners brought forward court proceedings they had started in the Derbyshire High Court. Mr McGaher, its vice-president, and Mr Heathfield, its general secretary, as trustees of union funds.

Dismissal of the union leaders' appeal, Lord Justice Stephenson said that if Mr Justice Mervyn Davies had been offered an undertaking on which he could have relied, he probably would not have appointed the receiver.

But the judge was justified in his inability to accept that undertaking without a further assurance that the miners' leaders would obey orders of the court, past as well as future.

'Notorious' contempt
It was "notorious" that the NUM and one of its leaders had committed flagrant contempt of court orders, said Lord Justice Stephenson. Although Mr Scargill was no longer in contempt because his £1,000 fine had been paid, the union was still in contempt.

He hoped that an assurance that all court orders would be obeyed would now come from the union's national executive committee. If so, the miners' leader could apply to the court on Monday for an order discharging the receiver.

Such an assurance would involve the union in agreeing to pay the £200,000 contempt of court fine co-operating with the sequestrators and complying with court injunctions made a week ago requiring them to bring back to Britain all union funds sent abroad before the sequestration order was made.

The temporary order appointing Mr Brewer as receiver lasts until Thursday when lawyers for the union leaders will have a further opportunity to argue in greater detail why his appointment should not be continued.

In the meantime, Mr Brewer will be hoping that the Luxembourg bank, and if necessary the Luxembourg courts, will recognise his authority as a court-appointed receiver, to take control of the union's assets because of failure by the union's trustees to carry out their duties properly.

MP SUE BY WIFE

Mr John Hiddle, 41, Tory MP for Mid-Staffordshire is being sued in the Divorce court by his wife, Judith, whose petition appears in the current list of undefended suits to be heard soon. The couple married in 1964 and have four children.



Mr Michael McGarity starting on Saturday a day-and-night vigil outside Selfridges store in Oxford Street where he hopes to raise £30,000 for Kettering, Radcliffe and Northampton Hospitals in a sponsored appeal by the time the sales begin on Dec. 28. Mr McGarity suffers from a spinal complaint.

Disabled man kicked and beaten by gang

A DISABLED joiner was beaten up by youths when he went to board up the broken windows of a chemist's shop in a strike-torn South Yorkshire pit village.

Mr Walter Claydon, who suffers from a childhood disability which restricts his walking, was met by a torrent of abuse as he climbed from his car.

As he walked towards the shop, in St Andrew's Square, Bolton on Deane, near Barnsley, he was repeatedly punched and kicked by up to 10 youths. As he fought his way back to the car, he tripped and was kicked in the face, neck and groin.

He suffered widespread bruising and a cracked cheekbone.

Mr Claydon, 45, spoke at his home in Hall Broom Gardens of his ordeal.

"It was the most frightening moment of my life, but I don't think the youths were miners."

"They were just people jumping on the bandwagon of violence. There were about 60 youths and they took it in turns to attack me with about 10 at a time."

"It was only the intervention of some miners who I think that prevented me from being more seriously injured."

"When I got back to my car I went straight to the police station and they called an ambulance. I didn't dare go home in case they followed and attacked my wife Maureen."

In Doncaster, George McDonald, a strike rebel who

VIOLENCE FOR POLITICAL ENDS REJECTED

The British public overwhelmingly rejects violence for political ends, according to the results of a National Opinion Poll survey on behalf of Aims of Industry, the private enterprise organisation.

A 72 per cent majority think that political parties should ban from membership anyone who believes in overthrowing government by violence, while an 83 per cent majority believe it is unacceptable for a British government to be forced by political violence to call a general election.

Mr Pym, a critic of the Government's economic policies before and since he was dismissed as Foreign Secretary by the Prime Minister and returned to the backbenches in 1985, said that Mrs Thatcher was "absolutely the Prime Minister the country needed."

He added: "All her objectives I share and the party shares. What we're talking about is how they're going to be achieved."

Mr Pym's remarks were in line with the speeches which he and other "wets" now out of office — Mr Heath and Sir Ian Gilmour are others — have been making for some time. But he said it had been evident at the time of the party conference in October that there was growing unease in the party about the economic policies and especially about unemployment.

BILL MAY CUT RED TAPE FOR SMALL FIRMS

Mr Michael Grylls, Conservative MP for North West Surrey, who drew seventh place in the Private Members' Bills ballot, is to introduce a Small Businesses Bill "in response to an overwhelming demand from small firms' organisations, led by the Union of Independent Companies and the Small Business Bureau."

It will provide the legislative framework in which the Government will take place and require each Secretary of State to report to Parliament annually.

Supporting the motion, Mr Michael Meadcroft, Liberal MP for Leeds West, said: "Emphasis on the market principle tends to be detrimental to the Liberals' wish to develop co-operative structures and to acknowledge ecological needs."

Owen's ideas attacked

By Our Political Correspondent

FURTHER differences between the partners in the Liberal-SDP Alliance were revealed after a weekend meeting of the Liberal party's council in Grantham.

A motion was passed expressing concern at slowness of progress on agreement over candidates for Parliamentary seats. The Liberal criticism being that the SDP frequently wanted inter-party discussions referred to the leadership rather than being settled at local level.

A motion was also passed criticising what was called "Dr Owen's social market theories."

The council, at which Mr Steel, Liberal leader, was not

present, will instruct the party's standing committee to prepare a statement "explaining the distinctions between the Liberal and the social market approaches."

The motion welcomed the SDP's attempt, initiated by Dr Owen, its leader, to "redefine social democracy by getting away from what has been seen as the failed approaches of the 1960s," but added that Liberals were concerned that the SDP was "placing too much faith in the market as a guarantor of individual rights."

Supporting the motion, Mr Michael Meadcroft, Liberal MP for Leeds West, said: "Emphasis on the market principle tends to be detrimental to the Liberals' wish to develop co-operative structures and to acknowledge ecological needs."

Church leaders urge Joseph to drop grant cuts

By JOHN IZBICKI Education Correspondent

CHURCH OF ENGLAND leaders have joined in the attack on Government plans to cut student grants and increase parental contributions, calling on Sir Keith Joseph, Education Secretary, to think again.

A motion passed unanimously by the board of education of the General Synod urges Sir Keith to restructure the system of student fees and maintenance grants and scrap parental contributions altogether.

The board also deplored the Government's intention to raise the general student grant by only three per cent next year.

The motion says this would "accelerate the decrease in the real value of the grant which is already 17 per cent below the level set at its introduction in 1962."

It pointed out that Sir Keith's decision to make richer parents pay more while their sons and daughters received less from the taxpayer would "bear very hard on students."

In 1982-83, 47 per cent of students in higher education did not receive a full grant and about 4,000 got no grant at all because their parents were "unable or unwilling to sign grant assessment forms."

Backbench revolt
The Church leaders' criticism have worsened the crisis facing Sir Keith who will tonight meet the chairman, two vice-chairmen and two secretaries of the backbench education committee to sound out the strength of the revolt among Tory MPs.

At a full meeting of the Committee tomorrow night Sir Keith and Mr Peter Brooke, Minister for Higher Education, will try to persuade the rebels, who now number almost 160, to moderate their opposition.

Earlier in the day Sir Keith may come under fire from MPs when he replies to Parliamentary questions on student issues in the Commons.

Further criticism of the proposed cuts came yesterday from Sir John Butterfield, vice-chancellor of Cambridge University, who expressed "the university's very great concern" in letters to Sir Keith and Mr Lawson, the Chancellor. His protest, unusual for a man who normally refrains from involvement in education politics, follows a

meeting of the Council of the Senate at Cambridge which authorised the letter.

"The introduction of a contribution towards tuition fees contravenes the principle of a free education system and raises the spectre of a time when entry to university may again depend not on academic merit but on the ability to pay."

There is widespread resentment and indignation in Cambridge that this radical and potentially far-reaching change of educational policy should have been announced in the guise of a fiscal measure without notice and without any opportunity for public discussion.

But support for Sir Keith came from Sir David Phillips, chairman of the Advisory Board for the Research Council's, who expressed the gratitude of "scientists throughout the country" for the offer of more funds for scientific research.

Sir David's board advises Sir Keith on the size of each year's science budget and how it should be shared among the five research councils — agriculture and food; economic and social; medical; natural environment; and science and engineering.

The Government's extra funds — £33 million of which would come from the grant cuts — would amount to £70 million extra over three years, including £20 million for university laboratories and equipment, Sir David said.

600 research projects
"If the Secretary of State accepts the advice we have given it will mean: An extra 600 alpha-rated research projects (projects considered top priority). Help for new programmes in food research and plant and animal sciences. More medical research in the universities. More research into the use of computers in engineering and information technology. A total of £6 million in the 1985-86 financial year for much needed and expensive equipment."

"The benefits for today's scientists, the new generations of science students and the country as a whole are substantial," he said.

Education Column—P5; Editorial Comment—P14

Southgate by-election

Grants spectre looms over Tory campaign

By JAMES ALLAN

THE growing controversy over student grants will confront Mr Lawson, Chancellor, when he appears tonight in the by-election campaign in Southgate, where the cuts are threatening to become the main issue.

Mr Lawson will be speaking in Hadley Wood, where the increased parental contributions are likely to be felt most.

He is aware from his erstwhile political adviser, Mr Michael Portillo, the 31-year-old Conservative candidate, of the growing concern being expressed by voters.

While canvassing on Friday, Mr Portillo was topped by a man carrying a newspaper with a front page story on the student grant cuts row. Waving it at Mr Portillo, he said: "Whatever else you do, do something about this, will you?"

Others are putting it more politely and, in a constituency with nearly a third of the 65,000 electorate in the professional and managerial class, more cogently.

The announcement of the change in student grants by Sir Keith Joseph, Education

Secretary, could not have come at a worse time for Mr Portillo, who is fighting a by-election caused by the death of Sir Anthony Berry in the Brighton bombing.

He admits: "There is definitely concern on the doorstep. There are a large number of people in the constituency who have children at university whose quota will be affected by the changes."

Not unnaturally Mr Portillo is reluctant to become a rebel before being elected and has declined to support the 180 Tory MPs in revolt.

Both his Alliance and Labour opponents consider they are well placed to capitalise on Tory discomfiture.

The Liberals are fighting the seat for the Alliance with Mr Timothy Slack, 56, who as headmaster of Bedales School in Hampshire from 1962 to 1974 believes Sir Keith Joseph has played into his hands.

The Labour candidate, Mr Peter Hamid, 52, despite being a local councillor in Enfield, is likely to find his party struggling again in third place.

Mr Portillo, who was elected in 1983, is a former Conservative MP for Southgate. He is a former Conservative MP for Southgate. He is a former Conservative MP for Southgate.

Mr Portillo, who was elected in 1983, is a former Conservative MP for Southgate. He is a former Conservative MP for Southgate. He is a former Conservative MP for Southgate.



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£27m BULLION RAIDERS FACE JAIL TODAY

By IAN HENRY Old Bailey Correspondent
TWO masterminds behind Britain's biggest-ever robbery—£27 million in gold bullion and other valuables from a Brink's Mat warehouse near Heathrow a year ago—were convicted at a unique Old Bailey hearing yesterday.

MICHAEL McAVOY, 52, builder, and BRIAN ROBINSON, 41, car dealer, both South Londoners, were driven from court amid unprecedented security and will return today to face sentence by the Common Serjeant of London, Judge DAVID TUDOR PRICE.

As they were driven off to jail, a third accused man, Anthony White, 40, car dealer, left in a white Mercedes after being cleared of involvement in the spectacular raid.

The month-long case ended without any further clues being given as to the whereabouts of the colossal fortune in bullion, diamonds, platinum and travellers' cheques.

The haul, three tons of gold, enough to fill three coffins, is almost certainly still in this country, and in the 12 months since the robbery has risen in value to over £50 million.

The jury of seven women and five men took 26 hours 46 minutes, to return their verdicts, spending three nights at the hotel, clearing White and convicting the two others. McAvoy, of Beckenham Road, East Dulwich, and Robinson, of Rolling Street, Lewisham, by a two-to-one majority decision.

It is the first time in memory that a jury has returned verdicts at the Old Bailey on a Sunday. The judge postponed sentence until this afternoon because sentences are not permitted to be passed on a Sunday.

The jury had been given 24-hour police protection throughout the trial and the judge assured them that this will continue.

Mr MICHAEL CORKERY, Q.C., prosecuting, said that a three-man gang had attacked the warehouse on an industrial estate at Hounslow last December and terrorised guards to pass over details of the sophisticated security system.

The gang had been told to expect a haul of between £1 million and £2 million and were astounded by what they got.

It is for that reason that informed sources are convinced that the fortune is still secreted in this country, possibly concealed over in a garage of a suburban house.

Despite rewards totalling £2 million, Scotland Yard has not had a whisper concerning the whereabouts of the bullion. But detectives are convinced that such a haul would be "too hot to handle" for many years.

Now that their trial is over, and two of the gang face jail sentences, there are hopes in some quarters that information leading to the recovery of the fortune will be forthcoming.

However, senior Flying Squad officers have already discounted a popular theory that criminals living in Spanish hideaways are wanted concerning that particular robbery.

The two convicted men were betrayed by another gang member who turned police informer. ANTHONY BLACK, a Brink's Mat security guard who was the gang's inside man, gave evidence in the trial after earlier this year receiving a six-year sentence.

He was already disowned by his family, and his mother blackened him in court as "untrustworthy and unreliable." He is spending his sentence in secret police custody.

Black, who had been living with Robinson's sister, provided the information about the warehouse security.

The gang, who had planned the robbery for a year, burst in and threatened to set fire to the vault combination.

Watered-down petrol was poured over the guards and matches lit close to them to terrify them into parting with the information.



Anthony White: cleared of involvement in £27 million Heathrow gold bullion robbery.

Criticism of Prestel 'mole' retaliation

By BARBARA CONWAY City Staff

PRESTEL, the British Telecom computerised information network, is facing accusations of using "Big Brother" tactics to silence criticism of its security by one of its largest customers.

Timeframe International, a company which specialises in providing business information, last week claimed that its secret identification codes had been hacked.

The incident was said to have taken place only days after a major security alert involving the hacking of electronic mail, including that belonging to Prince Philip, had led to wholesale changes in security codes.

On Friday night hundreds of members of the public who use the Timeframe bulletin boards—which carried both instantaneous debates and information on subjects ranging from computers to eating out—suddenly found that the company had been removed from the system.

'No mole'

This, according to a Prestel statement, was because Timeframe refused to retract its statement on the hacking or a suggestion that a Prestel 'mole' might be involved, despite the fact that there was no such unauthorised use of the system.

Part of Prestel's anxiety to stop further talks of security breaches lies in the fact that areas of its system are used for highly confidential information, such as business data and a special service for doctors, including details of new drugs.

BT also runs a special business electronic correspondence service called Telecom Gold, which is also likely to carry confidential information.

But the abrupt action of pulling the plug on Timeframe last week may have exactly the opposite effect to that intended.

Angry users are already exchanging details of individual cases where passwords into the system seem to have been hacked and, although this course of action would be illegal, it looks possible that a demonstration "hack" could be arranged by some users to demonstrate that Prestel is vulnerable.

KIRK FEARS

LAWSON WILL

TAX BIBLE

By Our Churches Correspondent

Mr Lawson "surely does not want to be remembered as the Chancellor of the Exchequer who taxed the Bible", suggests LANE AND WORK, the Church of Scotland's magazine.

The editor refers to reports that, in looking for fresh sources of revenue, the Chancellor is considering imposing VAT on books, newspapers and periodicals.

LANE AND WORK admits there is a case for taxing "trashy books and papers," just as entertainments are taxed. But "if the Government cannot establish a clear line to divide virtue and vice, it would be better to abandon the whole idea."

MAN ACCUSED OF

BRITON'S MURDER

By Our Madrid Correspondent

A Moroccan was charged yesterday with the murder of Hugh Lomax, an oddjob man and former brewery worker from Warrington, Cheshire, whose mutilated body was found in a sugar-cane field on the Costa del Sol.

Mustafa el Karmoui, 45, was said to have admitted the murder, outside Torremolinos, in an "apparent settling of accounts" after a dispute over stolen property.

MOTORCYCLE DEATH

A couple returning to their house in the village of West Rudham, Norfolk, early yesterday found the body of Mr David Wells, 25, of Duggins Lane, Tile Hill, Coventry, in their wrecked utility room with his 750 c.c. Triumph motorcycle on top of him. He had failed to negotiate a bend in the road, police said.

TREE PATROL

Forest rangers started round-the-clock searchlight patrols in the New Forest yesterday to deter thefts of Christmas trees.

Vegetarians putting more beef into Smithfield protest

By GODFREY BROWN Agriculture Correspondent

VEGETARIANS yesterday launched their biggest attack yet on the monument to meat-eating, the Royal Smithfield Show, where the best and most pampered of the millions of meat animals that will be slaughtered for Christmas tables began their brief spell in the spotlight.

The show, which opened at Earl's Court yesterday and continues until Thursday, brings to the capital the very best that livestock farmers can produce in competition for the coveted championship trophies.

It is also a major show window for Britain's major farm machinery industry.

It has become an increasing target in recent years for the vegetarians, who yesterday staged a march from Marble Arch (formerly Tyburn, they pointed out) to Earl's Court to protest at what they called the murder that is meat-eating.

Police estimated about 1,000 people in the march, with several hundreds more gathered outside the Earl's Court exhibition, shouting slogans, waving banners and holding out leaflets while their own 12-piece band played hymns.

Hearts and stomachs

There was a strong police presence and three arrests were made. One demonstrator, Mark Longden, a 17-year-old student from Newark, Nottingham, was charged with obstruction. The other arrests followed alleged threatening behaviour and obstruction of police.

What is now taking place between the vegetarians and show officials is a battle, not so much for the hearts and minds of the British public but their minds and stomachs.

In the wake of the increased militancy from vegetarians, show officials yesterday cast aside their customary attitude of condescension and gave a warning that their tolerance was being strained to breaking point.

Mr James Stobo, a Berwickshire livestock farmer and councillor member of the Royal Smithfield Club, one of the three organisations that combine to stage the show, pointed out that club members had been meeting vegetarian representatives for seven years to exchange views on the vegetarians' concept of an alternative life-style.

The vegetarians had been politely received by the club, which recognised their right to represent their preferred way of eating. But the club was saddened to find that this year the Vegetarian Society had invited so-called "other animal welfareists."

Meat is healthy

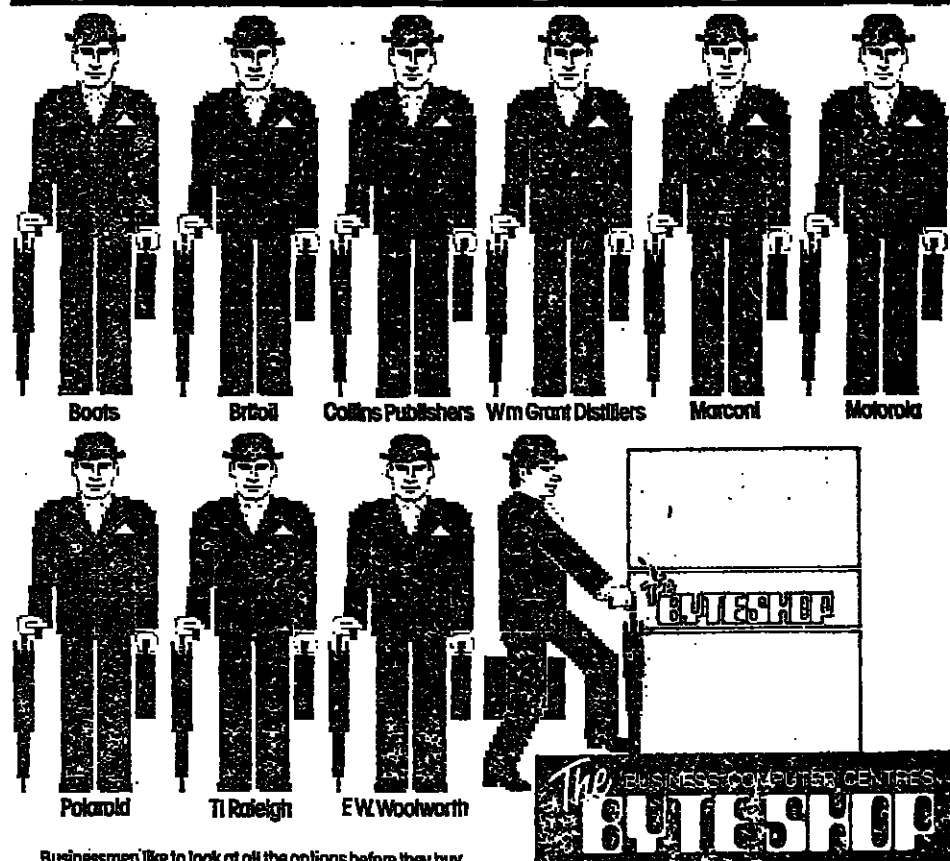
"In common with a number of other minorities, they appear to be endeavouring to impose their views on the majority through the techniques of mass-hysteria, and these are not an acceptable way of achieving either support or dialogue."

In another shot in the battle for the nation's stomach, the Meat and Livestock Commission has devoted its entire main stand at the show to presenting the facts on the role of meat-eating in a healthy diet.

Mr Keith Roberts, chairman, said genuine concern about diet and health is being exploited by extremist groups.

Vegetarianism does not provide any answers, Mr Roberts maintains. Animal protein is important to health.

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Britons win backing in war on Costa crime

By GRAHAM JONES in Malaga

BRITONS living in the town known as the capital of the "Costa del Crime" have won the first round in their battle for a police offensive against snatch-and-run thieves and armed robbers.

A week ago, 800 Spanish and British residents of Nijra, east of Malaga, held a story protest meeting at the town hall, demanding action against shotgun-armed drug addicts.

Some residents called for the formation of vigilante squads. Yesterday, a member of the organising committee, 57-year-old Mr Bill Fletcher, said he was pleased at the response of the Spanish authorities in the town of 15,000 people where robberies were totalling 39 a week.

"Changes have been sparked off and, thank goodness," said Mr Fletcher who came from Manchester several years ago to open a restaurant called Bumbles in the town. "We all feel a lot happier now."

More police

Mr Fletcher reported that detectives from the national police in Malaga had been posted to the town to search for the "masked men behind the raids, which had terrified British villa-owners—many of them elderly. At their worst, there were 11 raids in one night."

The Civil Guard in Nijra had been given a new, tough second-in-command. There is also a special two-man drugs patrol given the task of running addicts out of town.

The whole of the Costa del Sol has been hit by a crime wave, including a number of street crimes which have turned to murder. Several hundred extra police will move in before the New Year season starts in March, the authorities say.

One British couple, Mr and Mrs Martin Weeks, defied a shotgun attack on their home, even after shots were fired at their windows. The price was two further raids on their villa, one of which "wrecked their home and caused £25,000 worth of damage."

The Weeks, who are staying with friends because they are too frightened to return to their £36,000 villa, had retired to Spain but say they will now be returning to Britain.

Still shaking weeks after her ordeal, Mrs Elizabeth Weeks, 56, said: "It is amazing these folks have been able openly to ride their bikes around town carrying sawn-off shotguns."

BRITON KILLED

By Our Madrid Correspondent

A Londoner, Paul Sheriff, 21, from Hammersmith, worked in Gibraltar, has been killed in a collision between his hired car and a van on the main Costa del Sol, near Torremolinos.

CHILD-CARE STAFF WERE CRIMINALS

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS in New York

NEARLY half the first group of workers to be fingerprinted in a New York check on staff at day-care centres for children were found to have criminal records.

A check on all workers in child welfare programmes was ordered after allegations of sexual abuse.

The aim was to reassure the public that children were in safe hands. But officials found that 36 of the first 82 day-care workers checked had criminal records, including convictions for arson, robbery, prostitution, drugs and gun possession.

"Shocking is the best word to describe it," said Mayor Ed Koch. "It's clearly something we have to be concerned about."

On wanted list

He said that six of the 56 were wanted on outstanding arrest warrants.

Officials are now hurriedly re-examining their hiring public employees with criminal records. Mayor Koch said an ex-convict would not necessarily be barred from employment, but records would be examined closely to make sure no danger of sexual or other abuse of children was likely.

Mr Patrick McGinley, who is leading the fingerprinting investigation, said someone with a single 30-year-old conviction for prostitution would probably be acceptable, whereas someone with a long record of arrests would not.

YOUTH TRAINING

HELPS HOSTELS

The Youth Hostels Association has reversed its commercial decline despite falling membership, according to figures published yesterday.

One reason for the increased use of hostel facilities is the spread of training schemes run by the Youth Opportunity Programme. Many of the young people are put up in hostels.

FOOTBALLER DIES

Robert Gilbert, 18, of East Cowes, Isle of Wight, collapsed and died after being hit in the chest by a football during a minor league match at the weekend.

The Top Rate of 8.5% = 12.14% is still with the W%lwich.

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DT/31

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HAWKE BLAMES SETBACK ON SPOILED VOTES

By DENIS WARNER in Melbourne

THE Australian Labour party, led by Mr Hawke, Prime Minister, was returned to office at the weekend with a substantially-reduced majority instead of the landslide predicted by newspapers and opinion polls.

The anticipated 50-seat lead in the House of Representatives may turn out to be only 14, considerably below the 28-seat majority in the previous Parliament, since expanded from 125 to 148 members.

Mr Hawke will still have a comfortable working majority, but not enough to claim any mandate for major policy changes.

With 85 per cent of the vote now counted, the Labour vote is down by 1.7 per cent, and the Liberals by 0.2 per cent. The National coalition partner the National party increased its vote by 1.6 per cent.

When the next election is held, presumably in three years, the coalition will need a swing of only 1.7 per cent to unseat the Government.

Mr Hawke attributed the fall in Labour's following to the extraordinarily high invalid vote by about half a million electors, mostly in seats that normally would have gone to Labour.

Pensioners' anger
This followed the simplification of ballot forms for the Senate ticket, which required electors to make only a simple mark on their paper. For the House of Representatives, all preferences had to be indicated.

Up to 8 per cent of voters, apparently believed they had only to make one mark, leaving the ballots incomplete.

Mr Hawke, in a defensive interview yesterday, said up to 80 per cent of invalidated votes had been intended for Labour's candidates.

But his suggestion was challenged by electoral officers who noted a large number of invalidated votes also in "blue ribbon" Liberal seats.

Mr Hawke was so confident of an overwhelming victory that he did not attempt to deny that Labour might introduce wealth, capital gains and probate taxes, thus alienating many voters.

He failed to recognise pensioners' anger over the introduction of an assets test, and the impact of a heavier tax on superannuation lump-sum payments.

The campaign, instead of consolidating Mr Hawke as the most popular of all Australian Prime Ministers, exposed his weaknesses.

All factions of the Labour party, left, right and centre, appear to have suffered equally and he is therefore unlikely to face any challenge in the caucus.

But much of the Hawke magic has been lost while Mr Peacock, leader of the Opposition, has won a new lease of political life.

The final results in doubtful seats for the House of Representatives are not likely to be known before the end of the week.

The full Senate results may not be known much before Christmas.

At the moment it appears that the Labour party and the Coalition share equally six of the seven Senate seats in each state.

Editorial Comment—P14



God's banker 'loaned' for Milan trial

By LESLIE CHILDE in Rome

THE shadowy financier Michele Sindona was putting the finishing touches to a lengthy defence dossier last night on the eve of his Milan trial.

Despite the allegations made against him during the past decade, this will be the first time he has ever appeared in a court in his homeland.

In an unprecedented legal move, the diminutive Sicilian has been "loaned out" to Italy by the United States where he is already serving 25 years.

He is accused of fraud and a long list of other crimes involving the \$150 million crash of two banks he owned.

Sindona, 64, known as "God's Banker" because of his close links with the Vatican's embattled financial authorities is expected to plead not guilty.

A group of European women and children waiting at an outlying airfield to be flown to the capital of Noumea as they fled from the violence in the north-west of New Caledonia where Melanesian tribesmen have stepped up their action for independence from France.

Paris moves to placate Pacific island rebels

By IAN WARD in Singapore

TWENTY-FOUR hours after raising the rebel flag in France's South Pacific island of New Caledonia and declaring independence, leaders of the breakaway movement yesterday welcomed the decision by Paris to draw up new proposals for the colony's self-determination.

The rebels also welcomed the French Government's plan, taken at an emergency Cabinet meeting on Saturday, to send out M. Edgar Pisani, the former Agriculture Minister, with orders to submit recommendations within two months.

Observers in the colony's capital, Noumea, last night read these developments as an important psychological victory for the Melanesian rebels.

But they felt M. Pisani would encounter fierce opposition from anti-independence groups on the island.

Significantly, M. Dick Uweke, President of the freshly-elected New Caledonia Assembly, in Paris at the weekend for crisis talks with President Mitterrand, declared publicly that he had no intention of talking with rebels.

Back in New Caledonia, tension is running high in the wake of last Friday's Shoot-out between French farmers and Melanesians, known locally as Kanaks, who are demanding immediate independence.

The clash resulted in the death of one white farmer and one Melanesian.

SOVIET SOLDIER'S 'ORDEAL'

By NIGEL WADE in Moscow

THE two Russian soldiers returned home from Afghanistan who suffered a "nightmare" at the hands of British security agents, IZVESTIA newspaper said at the weekend.

It published an interview said to have been given by Sgt Igor Rykhov, 22, and Pte Oleg Khlan, 21, in Moscow on Friday in which they allegedly claimed British agents drugged them to say they had deserted.

In fact, the paper insisted, they were taken prisoner in Afghanistan and later held against their will in Pakistan and Britain.

The account was highly reminiscent of claims by Oleg Blinov, the Soviet journalist who defected last year and returned home in September, claiming he was abducted and tortured by British agents.

Stalin's daughter, Svetlana Alliluyeva, returned home six weeks ago after 17 years as a defector and said she had never been free in the West.

These cases have provided a propaganda harvest for the Russians. Careful manipulation of Blinov and the two soldiers has enabled the authorities to undermine Western predictions of dire punishment awaiting the defectors.

Drugged by captors
Punishment may still be in prospect — the authorities have plenty of time — but meanwhile there is advantage to be gained in publishing anti-Western accounts and appearing mercurial.

IZVESTIA published no pictures of the two soldiers and said nothing about their present circumstances or whether they had realised their hopes of being reunited with their families.

Rykhov and Khlan returned on a flight from London to Leningrad on November 11, after going to the Soviet Embassy to inquire about their families. IZVESTIA stressed that they told British officials they were returning voluntarily.

Lord Bethell, who brought them to England after they had been nearly a year in the hands of Afghan guerrillas, was said to be working on orders from British Intelligence.

The soldiers had been drugged by their Afghan captors and it suited British agents to keep them that way, the paper said. It was the effect of drugs which allegedly induced the pair to tell a news conference they had abandoned their units in July last year, before falling into guerrilla hands.

LOVE CHILD'S PICTURE
'Wife was unfaithful'
OUR DIPLOMATIC STAFF writes: A small girl, said to be Igor Rykhov's daughter whose photograph was sent to him in the hope of enticing him back to the Soviet Union, was actually the result of an extra-marital affair by his wife, according to the Soviet Prisoners' Afghan Rescue Committee which interviewed the soldiers.

Rykhov had told the committee that a major reason behind his desertion was because his wife had been unfaithful and had given birth to an illegitimate child. Khlan's reason was that he had accidentally killed a fellow soldier when his gun went off, and he believed he would be shot.

PRESIDENT ZIA ANNOUNCES SOLO ELECTION
By Our Islamabad Correspondent

President Zia-ul-Haq has invited Pakistan's 35 million registered voters to elect him as President for five more years, in a contest in which he will be the only candidate.

The President, by announcing the surprise referendum on December 19 on his Islamic policies, has scrapped his plans to have a President chosen by the National Assembly after a promised election.

The main Opposition alliance of 11 banned parties will boycott the referendum, described as a "crude joke with the people" by Shah Ahmad Nourani, leader of the JUP religious party.

Financial markets in U.S. fear slide in to recession

By FRANK TAYLOR in Washington

MR DONALD REGAN, the American Treasury Secretary, called yesterday for urgent action to reduce the country's massive federal deficit, which he described as the most serious problem facing the government and Congress.

His statement reflects a definite sense of unease in Washington and the financial markets.

It is felt that without swift action by President Reagan to curb the deficit, the American economy may slide once again into recession.

Mr Reagan is due to hold a series of meetings this week with his senior economic and budget management advisers with the object of working out a plan for reducing Government spending while at the same time raising revenues in the coming fiscal year.

Ideally, Mr Reagan would like to be able to lop off \$45 billion from the deficit, which in 1985 is expected to go as high as \$210 billion.

'Untouchable' items
Some of his advisers have spoken of a budget "freeze", but since the President has declared both defence spending and social security to be "untouchable", and that he will maintain the present rates of increase, his critics have begun to ask how such a programme could be termed a "freeze".

Even Mr Reagan conceded yesterday that military spending would have to be included in any budgetary freeze or cut-back programme, a position that puts him on a collision course with both the White House and the Pentagon.

Mr Reagan said that he had given his views to both the President and to Mr Weinberger, the Defence Secretary. Speaking in a television current affairs programme, Mr Reagan seemed to question the President had asked him to stay on in his Treasury post.

Mr Reagan said that his department's tax-reform plan would have to take second place to tackling the deficit. He thought that the \$45 billion reduction could be achieved "if you include defence".

Military build-up
Congressional leaders also save President Reagan a warning yesterday that his military build-up may have to come under the axe if the deficit is to be tamed.

Senator Robert Packwood, a Republican who is to be the new chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, predicted that Mr Reagan would get enough support in Congress for a package of spending cuts that did not include defence.

And Mr Dan Rostenkowski, Democratic chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said there would have to be more than just cutbacks in government expenditure — a reference to Mr Reagan's adamant refusal to increase revenues by raising taxes.

In an editorial the New York Times said yesterday that talk of budgetary "freeze" was but an empty slogan. As the plan would not embrace any lid on either military spending or social security, both programmes would go on rising.

At some point, the paper said, Mr Reagan's fiscal bandage will face up to the need for defence cuts and tax increases.

Kirkpatrick is forced back to the kitchen

By FRANK TAYLOR in Washington

MRS JEANE KIRKPATRICK made it clear yesterday that she is quitting President Reagan's team largely because of political attacks on her from inside the White House.

In a newspaper interview, Mrs Kirkpatrick remarked: "I have this recurring thought which is what Harry Truman said: 'If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.'"

"My version of that is: If you can't stand the heat, get back to the kitchen where I have been very happy. I like private life."

Mrs Kirkpatrick has been a controversial figure ever since President Reagan appointed her to be America's Ambassador to the United Nations. She has frequently been portrayed as taking a hard line, particularly in policies affecting Latin America.

But from her comments in the interview it appears that much of what has been written about her may be the result of carefully planted "leaks" by hostile members of Mr Reagan's White House staff.

'Weirdly-mistaken'
Mrs Kirkpatrick found it hard to understand how the world had got the "weirdly-mistaken" notion that she was an extremist or anti-democratic. She had probably opposed using force in Central America "more often and more strongly than any member of the government" during policy discussions.

She was not talking about the use of United States combat troops in the region. "Nobody has ever suggested that. I mean any kind of force, even in principle."

But in trying to set the record straight one always appeared on the defensive. "For the most part I've given up. I do believe that there still may be some special sort of resentment of women in high politics in this country."

Mrs Kirkpatrick's comments suggest that reports of her pressing for a more senior post in the Reagan government, perhaps that of National Security Adviser, may have been fabricated by detractors, who were then able to "leak" that Mr Reagan had vetoed any such move.

Ritual singing
Standing in a singing, swaying crowd of Labour supporters at a night-time campaign rally, one can sense the magnetism of "Uncle Gairy."

After the ritual hymn-singing and calypso music to warm up the enthusiasm, the local principles, democracy and prosperity. Then he pointed to the stars in the black tropical night and set the crowd chanting "Vote the star," the campaign slogan for Sir Eric.

3500 years ago the wisest man who ever lived made an observation of stunning simplicity. "There is nothing new under the sun", he said.

To be perfectly honest he should have added, "Except the price." As an example, look what's happened in the last 20 years to a few of the things it would be rather nice to look forward to.

A 5 bedroom farmhouse with a few acres in the home counties has gone from £12,000 to nearly £200,000.

An XKE Jaguar was £1,850. Its replacement, the XJS, will set you back around £20,000.

And the price of 61 Lafite has doubled 6 times from £3.50 to over £250 a bottle.

Very scary figures if you apply them to the next 20 years.

"Whatever the future holds

I don't expect my

tastes will change much."

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Every day, all over Britain, grateful remarks like that—from housebound, sick, handicapped people—warm the hearts of voluntary Red Cross workers. Their work for the community includes many unspectacular but vital services: providing First Aid at public events, community work in hospitals, helping disabled people and the elderly in their homes and clubs...and so many more.

The British Red Cross also contributes emergency aid overseas—because it is part of the International Red Cross, acknowledged throughout the world for its impartiality, compassion and breadth of experience.

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The British Red Cross Society, Dept. 0755, 9, Grosvenor Crescent, London, SW1X 7EJ.

To D.J. Figgott, Director General. Please send me details of the Society's work, with information on the tax advantages to UK residents of a bequest or covenant donation to charity.

Name _____
Address _____

THE RED CROSS

NAVAL EQUIPMENT ARRIVES IN 'MADE IN RUSSIA' BOX

By DESMOND WETTER, Naval Correspondent

THE crew of the 4,100-ton Boxer, one of the Navy's latest anti-submarine frigates, are puzzled and concerned over the arrival on board of some replacement electrical equipment in a seemingly new packing case inscribed in both English and Russian: "Made in the USSR."

The equipment, an amplifier intended for maintaining communications between members of the flight deck crew during helicopter operations, was supplied direct to the ship by a Croydon company instead of going through a Naval stores depot, as it was needed in a hurry.

There is some concern that the equipment could conceivably have been bugged to emit a beacon signal that could give away the ship's position, or at least give it an electronic "label" to a receiver tuned to the right frequency, such as in a Russian spy trawler.

Mr Graham Cook, managing director of Clifford and Snell of Croydon, who supplied the amplifier to the Boxer at Portland Naval base, said it was ridiculous to suggest that the equipment had come from Russia.

"We don't have any dealings with the Russians and in any case we are a Ministry of Defence approved and inspected contractor."

Barter relief

He pointed out that packaging of the company's equipment for the Ministry was normally done by outside sub-contractors.

But later he admitted that as this particular item had been required urgently it had been packed on the company's premises.

"We buy packaging materials and these sometimes have Russian or Chinese markings on them. They're probably cases obtained originally by other companies trading with the Eastern bloc who have to take

things like machine tools in exchange."

On board the Boxer amplifier has been found to lack sufficient power for the job it was required to do, and it has now been replaced and re-installed to provide the main broadcast system for men working in the ship's machinery spaces where noise levels would be lower.

While the risk of the amplifier being bugged is considered remote by senior Naval technical officers, "there must be some concern if unauthorised people could be in a position to know in some detail the kind of equipment being fitted in our ships," one officer said.

Mr Cook said he intended to try to trace the source of the "packing case" and had cautioned the company's work force to take more care in future when despatching Defence Ministry orders.

PRESS FREEDOM GROUP LAUNCHED

An organisation aimed at promoting and protecting freedom in newspapers, television, radio and magazines is being launched by a group of senior journalists today.

The board of the new Association of British Editors includes Mr David Nicholas, ITN editor; Mr Peter Preston, editor of the Guardian; Sir David English, editor of the Daily Mail; and Mr Donald Trefford, editor of the Observer.



Lt. Cdr Peter Tatham on board the frigate Boxer with the lid of the mystery crate.

BELGRANO INQUIRY

By GUY RAIS

A FORMER Navy lieutenant who kept a diary of events leading to the sinking of the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano during the Falklands war in 1982 has been interviewed by officers of the serious crimes squad at Scotland Yard.

Mr Narendra Sethia, 28, who left the Royal Navy two years ago and now lives in the Caribbean island of St Lucia, returned to London last week and was questioned by detectives inquiring into the disappearance of the log of the submarine Conqueror, which sank the Argentine cruiser in May 1982.

Mr Sethia, who was at Harrow School and Dartmouth, was understood to have told officers that he knew nothing about the disappearance of the submarine's log, and that excerpts from his diary, which he admitted keeping, had been published in a newspaper without consent.

A fund of variety in Milton Keynes

By JOHN GRIGSBY, Local Government Correspondent

MR FRANK HENSHAW, general manager of Milton Keynes, pointed out of his office window at the new buildings lining Midsummer Boulevard.

"That was funded by the British Steel Pension Fund, the shopping centre, by ourselves and the Post Office Pension Fund."

The hotel, he added, is being built by Trust House Forte, that was funded by Scottish Amicable, Tarmac and Sun Alliance.

The only building to be funded by Treasury money was the office block by the station because that was considered too far from the centre to attract private investment.

Life for the general manager of one of Britain's still growing new towns has changed dramatically over the last five years. In 1979 as one of his first acts as Environment Secretary, Mr Henshaw ordered the new town corporations not only to dispose of their assets but to go out into the market to get the finance for new developments.

Controversial move

It was a controversial move which some saw as completely contrary to the new town philosophy. Traditionally the new towns were expected to finance both the profitable developments of offices, factories and shopping centres and the unprofitable by Treasury borrowing.

The proceeds from the leases of the profitable assets would then be ploughed back into the new towns. But since Mr Henshaw's edict, Milton Keynes has been the most successful of the towns not only in disposing of its assets but also in attracting new investment. It has sold £40 million worth of assets in the form of offices, shops and factories.

Many of the disposals have been the sales of the freehold interest to the lessees of property. The buyers are usually reluctant to discuss the details and price of the transaction, but in one sale the Schroder Finance Group bought an office block for about £5 million from the corporation.

The money goes to the Exchequer. Over the past five years, the 21 new towns have contributed £500 million worth of the sale of industrial and commercial assets and £300 million from the sale of houses to their tenants.

Implementing the other arm of the policy, the corporation has attracted £150 million worth of private investment this year and £110 million last year compared with about £40 million of public money.

COMMUNISTS SUSPEND 22 IN VOTES ROW

Twenty-two members of the Communist party, including three members of the national executive, have been suspended in a row over the election of delegates to the London district congress of the party.

The executive members are Mike Hicks, Maggie Bowden and Winston Pinder. Three full-time staff of the party's London district are suspended and the rest of the 22 are members of the London district committee.

The suspensions follow claims that two party branches in Hackney registered members from outside their areas in order to increase their representation at the recent congress.

TUBE LINE STILL HIT BY FIRE

By Our Transport Correspondent

IT may be weeks before the Victoria Line is back to normal after the £1 million fire on the London Underground at Oxford Circus 10 days ago.

The north-bound platform of the Victoria Line has been gutted and specialist contractors have been removing contaminated material in rigidly controlled operations because white asbestos was uncovered by the fire.

It means Victoria Line trains can not run through the station, which is one of the busiest in Britain. But Bakerloo Line and Central Line trains are making normal stops there.

The smell of smoke still lingers extensively through tunnels to stations several stops further along the lines from Oxford Circus. Round-the-clock working is going on to restore the severely damaged Victoria Line section.

The investigation continues to begin in a passage linking two ends of the station, which underground platforms.

SELECT COMMITTEES

Commons select committees meeting in public this week:

Today: HOME AFFAIRS: Refugees, Immigration, Asylum, Council of Ministers, Veterans, Reserves, Action, United Kingdom, Immigration, Asylum, Refugees, 4.15 p.m.

Tomorrow: EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS: Achievement in primary schools, 10.30 a.m.; National Assembly, 10.30 a.m.; National Assembly, 10.30 a.m.; National Assembly, 10.30 a.m.

Wednesday: ENVIRONMENT: Environmental issues, 10.30 a.m.; National Assembly, 10.30 a.m.; National Assembly, 10.30 a.m.

Thursday: TRANSPORT: Financing of public transport, 10.30 a.m.; National Assembly, 10.30 a.m.; National Assembly, 10.30 a.m.

Friday: LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Local government, 10.30 a.m.; National Assembly, 10.30 a.m.; National Assembly, 10.30 a.m.

Saturday: DEFENCE: Defence, 10.30 a.m.; National Assembly, 10.30 a.m.; National Assembly, 10.30 a.m.

Sunday: AGRICULTURE: Agriculture, 10.30 a.m.; National Assembly, 10.30 a.m.; National Assembly, 10.30 a.m.

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ADVERTISEMENT

Local Government

A BILL

To abolish the metropolitan county councils; to transfer their functions to the local authorities in their areas and, in some cases, to other bodies; and to provide for other matters consequential on, or connected with, the abolition of those councils.

*Presented by Mr. Secretary Jenkin
supported by
The Prime Minister,
Mr. Secretary Brittan,
Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer,
Secretary Sir Keith Joseph,
Mr. Secretary Tebbit,
Mr. Secretary Ridley and
Mr. Kenneth Baker*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 22 November 1984*

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[Bill 11]

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THE GOVERNMENT'S ABOLITION BILL: MORE CON THAN CONVICTION

Today and tomorrow, MPs in the Commons are debating the Government's controversial Bill to abolish the six metropolitan county councils.

Introducing it last week, Local Government Minister Kenneth Baker proclaimed: "The Bill will bring about major improvements in local government in our great cities. It will mean that local government will be more local, more accessible, more economical and more accountable."

If such claims are remotely true, why has the abolition issue attracted such massive opposition? After all, doesn't everyone want to see greater efficiency and increased effectiveness of services in all walks of life?

The key factor is that the Government's claims are a world apart from all the factual evidence produced in a series of independent studies.

Mr Baker says the Bill's enactment would lead to minimum savings to ratepayers of £50 million a year in the six metropolitan counties. Would it?

No, say top financial consultants Coopers & Lybrand Associates who, in deciding that abolition could cost the metropolitan ratepayers as much as £69 million extra every

year, said: "Our updated analysis does not support the Government's claims for savings as a result of the re-allocation of functions detailed in the Bill."

"We conclude there are unlikely to be any net savings and that there could be significant extra costs. We have not been able to reconcile the difference between the Government's estimate and our estimate."

Mr Baker also says the Bill would mean "better local government" handing most of the metropolitan county council functions to the districts, removing confusion, streamlining services. Would it?

No, say internationally renowned P.A. Management Consultants whose report refutes all of the Government's streamlining claims, stating that: "The existing structure provides a more effective, more accountable and less complex framework for providing services than the Government's alternative structure."

P.A.'s consultants added: "We have been unable to find a single service where the quality of service is likely to be improved as a result of the change in structure. In many cases, we believe there will be a marked decline in quality."

The Abolition Bill itself is a very thick and complex document. Yet, like the White Paper before it, its claims are hollow; its proposals transparent. Which may explain why the experts have seen right through it: a Bill that won't save money. A Bill that complicates rather than streamlines local government, making it less local and far less accountable. A Bill that fails even to meet its own objectives.

As P.A.'s report concludes: "We believe there is little doubt that if the proposals are enacted in their present form, Parliament will be considering further changes in the metropolitan local government system within the next decade."

So, today and tomorrow, when MPs debate a matter whose outcome will affect the lives of more than 11 million people, they might do well to reflect on The Guardian's recent leader column in which the newspaper surmised: "It is impossible to read the Bill without asking one question: What on earth is the point of it all? Environment Secretary, Patrick Jenkin, insists that nothing has altered the Government's conviction about an unnecessary tier of local government. But the emphasis is increasingly on the con."

SAY NO TO THE ABOLITION OF THE METROPOLITAN COUNTY COUNCILS. DEMAND AN INQUIRY NOW.

ISSUED BY THE METROPOLITAN COUNTY COUNCILS OF GREATER MANCHESTER, MERSEYSIDE, SOUTH YORKSHIRE, TYNE AND WEAR, WEST MIDLANDS AND WEST YORKSHIRE. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, WRITE TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE GMC, COUNTY HALL, MANCHESTER M60 3HP.

EDUCATION: JOHN IZBICKI

Serving Britons in Germany

THERE are more than 90 schools in West Germany that cater exclusively for the sons and daughters of British Servicemen and women. Last week I flew to Milderath in a cramped and decidedly uncomfortable old Boeing jet to see for myself how these children were being taught.

In general, I liked what I saw. Most of the schools I visited were well run and the primaries were bright and cheerful. Pupils were happy about their lessons and showing no outward signs of behavioural problems. Indeed, most of them appeared remarkably relaxed and confident.

Yet when I asked them how many schools they had attended, answers ranged from two or three for the little ones in primaries to nine or more for teenagers in comprehensives. Like gypsy or circus children they are forever on the move, following their parents from posting to posting.

No wonder then that 21,489 of them attend independent boarding schools in Britain, 12,846 the offspring of officers and 8,625, the sons and daughters of O.R.s, the other ranks.

This number, already a substantial

SCHOOL UNIFORM JUST THE WEEK AS USUAL?



John Izbicki

increase for O.R. children over the past four years (up by almost 2,000 or 27 per cent since 1980) is likely to rise still further if the MoD continues a policy that smacks remarkably of teacher-bashing. It is not a deliberate policy on the part of Michael Heseltine, but one that reflects a lack of understanding by Whitehall for the conditions and feelings of teachers recruited to work in the 114 Service schools that straddle the world.

As I reported in THE DAILY TELEGRAPH last week, teachers in West Germany's Service schools are to suffer a cut in their salaries. Their overseas allowances, meant to help them meet the cost of living, will be cut by 10 per cent, as much as 84 per cent, with single teachers being particularly badly hit. The 1985 they receive at present will slump to £150. For married couples living in Service quarters, allowances will be reduced from £2,145 a year to £1,510—a cut of £635.

Since this allowance has always been tax free, the reduction is all the more acute and the teachers are understandably angry and disillusioned.

The reason given for this incredible piece of ham-fistedness is that the living in Germany is now lower than in Britain. Perhaps so. But the money being taken away has always been regarded as an incentive for teachers to pull up their boots at home and go to a foreign country to teach British children.

Not that the 1,432 teachers in Germany (down, incidentally, by 500 since 1978) have no other perks. They receive free accommodation if they wish to, can buy duty-free tobacco at duty-free prices, may also buy cars duty free and get coupons that will purchase petrol at about half price. They also receive the London weighting allowance which, as a result, gives them an average salary of about £3,000 a year.

Now, thanks to Mr Heseltine's advisers, many recently-recruited teachers are having to cancel orders for new cars. "I won't be able to afford one now," one young teacher told me. He had left a perfectly good

job in England to come to Gütersloh's Jung School, a big and splendid comprehensive housed in Goring's bleak old barracks.

But the pay cut is not the only piece of ad nauseam nonsense facing Service school teachers. By some mysterious tradition, they may not stay in their jobs beyond their 50th birthday. No matter how good or popular they are, at 50 they are finished. The 50-year rule did not have the same devastating effect when teachers were still in demand "back home".

Teachers are in full swing between teaching union leaders and the Departments of Education and Defence to see whether something can be done to alter his rule. In Germany I met heads aged 47 and 48 who were decidedly unhappy and apprehensive at the prospect of having to retire within the next two or three years with no job in sight.

Service teachers are also in the quaint position of seeing some of their less experienced colleagues being paid vastly more because they happen to be locally employed Germans. They are paid according to German teacher rates — and that means at least £2,000 a year more. There is, of course, a "plus" side. One deputy headmistress put it to me in just two words: "Job satisfaction." She explained: "We have small classes in a teacher-pupil ratio of 1:15 and good surroundings. We're a very friendly lot. Despite this pay cut I wouldn't give this up for anything."

Most of the schools I saw are run with meticulous efficiency. Would that some of our home-based schools were managed as well. Service schools have already implemented what Mr Keith Joseph has only just proposed for future use. They have firm teacher contracts, detailed pupil records and even a form of teacher "investment".

Teachers are on three-year contracts and have to re-apply for second and subsequent tours of duty. It keeps them on their toes and ensures that if they want to remain at a Service school or be promoted

within the system they must keep their hands clean and their standards high.

Once they do apply for a further three-year term their heads (or in the case of the heads, the senior officer in charge of schools) go into action with assessment forms. Comments have to be made on the teacher's professional ability, his or her attitude toward curriculum development, ability as an administrator, organizer and leader, contribution to work done outside school hours and suitability to live within a military community.

As for pupils, since their average length of stay at any Service school is just five terms, their records follow them from school to school. Not only are teachers at the children's new school told how well they had done academically but their personal qualities are also detailed.

Service schools can be proud of their records and the way in which they are managing to tackle their many problems. They could do with a little more help from the Ministry of Defence rather than the "Yes Minister" type of hindrance that is being flung at them.

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DESK DIARY

IT WAS in June 1946, a year after the war with Germany ended, that the Cabinet agreed it was safe enough for British families to move there. But there was one proviso—that children should be given an education "at least equal to the one they would have received had they remained in the U.K."

One month later on July 1, the Director of Education for Westmoreland was appointed first Director of British Children's Schools, British Army on the Rhine.

He was John Trevelyan, whose name was later to become a household word and featured in every cinema in the country as the signature of the Secretary of the Board of Film Censors.

If some of the Service schools in West Germany appear to be better

endowed with children's books and equipment than others, it is probably thanks to Graham Bill. Mr Bill, a major haulage contractor, is an East Londoner who has set up business in Düsseldorf probably the most fashionable city in West Germany.

Library clearance is among his many specialties. He has been employing the services of libraries in Hampshire and shipping their unwanted books in containers to his firm. Among the schools to benefit is the Moline Primary School in Soest which has helped to sell the books at fairs and fairs. With the proceeds, new library and other text books have been purchased for Moline pupils.

Two excellent Service schools — the Kings School, at Gütersloh and Dilling Middle School at Düsseldorf — have this year been awarded with the Schools Curriculum Award by the Society of Education Officers and Education magazine. Both have made an outstanding contribution to their respective communities.

Kings exchanges pupils, projects and ideas with the Kreisgymnasium, a local grammar school, while Dilling has close ties with the Heine Hochschule. While I was at Kings, its pupils and German children from the grammar school were being treated to a bilingual game of bingo.

Teachers are on three-year contracts and have to re-apply for second and subsequent tours of duty. It keeps them on their toes and ensures that if they want to remain at a Service school or be promoted

Service school teachers enjoy military rank. Those paid from scales one to three are the equivalent of Army captain while those from scale four up to the heads of small schools are majors. The heads of bigger

schools (group eight upwards) are considered Lieutenant colonels.

Nolan Clark, B.A.O.R.'s Director of Service Children's Schools who is equivalent to a Director of Education of what would be a very widespread local authority, holds the rank of brigadier. Reason for all this rank consciousness is simply a matter of quarters. A major's apartment is considerably superior to that of a captain.

ONE teacher in Germany who was among those to complain bitterly at the draconian cut in overseas allowances put it this way: "It costs me £188 a year to buy THE DAILY TELEGRAPH each day at DM2 a copy. In England, the paper would cost me only £70 a year. The difference is £118. My allowance is to be cut to £130 a year. It will only just cover my TELEGRAPH."

Apart from £5,535 a year, what can the Army offer medical students?

If you are selected for one of our medical cadetships, we can give you a great deal of help over the three years between second and final MB.

We'll pay you a salary starting at £5,535 and rising to £6,855 in your last year. We'll also pay your tuition fees and chip in generously for your textbooks.

During your pre-registration year, which can be spent at either military or civilian hospitals, you'll be paid the salary of a Lieutenant £11,571.

In return for these payments, we ask that you stay with us for six years after you've fully registered.

An officer and a doctor. As a doctor in the Army, male or female, your practice will be much the same as a good civilian one: fully equipped and professionally staffed. You could be working in a group practice or on your own, though you'll be entirely responsible for your own patients, be they soldiers or their families.

As an officer you'll find you can add extra dimensions to your life. You'll be able to take advantage of the wide range of sporting facilities. You'll almost certainly get opportunities to travel abroad, and you'll get far longer paid holidays than your civilian counterparts.

You'll also be involved in various military training exercises in which, as a Captain, you could find yourself leading a group of soldiers. It's for this reason that your 16-week initial training period includes a month of officer training at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

Opportunities for post-graduate training. And don't think that, because you're in the Army, your opportunities for further study will be in any way limited. We'll ensure that you get ample time for your post-graduate training in General Practice, Community and Occupational Medicine or one of the Hospital Specialities.

Try us out for a day. Assuming you have a place at a British medical school, you may like to spend a day at one of our medical units. It's a chance to ask questions and generally look around without committing yourself.

For further details please contact Major General (Retd.) R. N. Evans CB FRACS, Dept. MS, Royal Army Medical College, Millbank, London SW1 6RJ. Tel: 01-834 9060, ext. 210.

He'll send you our brochure, "Doctor in the Army," and arrange an interview.

RAMC Officer

Entrance to Polam Hall 1985

Girls' Independent Boarding and Day School

A wide range of academic ability catered for. Easy access from Teesside Airport. Examination dates: 9+ candidates—10th Feb. 1986; 12+ and 13+ External Candidates only—20th January 1986; Sixth Form Scholarships 5/8th March 1986.

Academic scholarships available, value 1/2 of fees, in addition Music awards offered according to age and ability. Later applications will be considered.

Further particulars from: The Headmistress, Polam Hall, Darlington: DL1 5PA. Tel: (0325) 463363. Ref. DTC.

HANDCROSS PARK SCHOOL

THREE ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Two of which must be up to HALF FEES one of which may be up to HALF FEES

Candidates should be between 2 and 9½ years on 1st September

For Prospects and further details write to: The Headmaster, Handcross Park School, Handcross, South Devon, West Devon PL21 6JF or telephone 0324 288516.

HAVE YOU A SON AGED 7-9 WHO LIKES SINGING?

If so, why not enter him for the DURHAM CATHEDRAL CHORIST VOICE TRIAL

February 23, 1986

Chorists are educated at the Cathedral's preparatory school for under 11 boarding fees.

For full details write or telephone The Headmaster, The Cathedral School, Durham, DH1 3JQ. (Telephone 0325 42935)

training exercises in which, as a Captain, you could find yourself leading a group of soldiers. It's for this reason that your 16-week initial training period includes a month of officer training at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

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Southampton University

SERC CASE STUDENTSHIPS

Applications are invited from graduates in Science, Engineering, Technology, Medicine, Law, Business, and Social Sciences for SERC CASE awards. These awards are designed to support research in the field of Science, Engineering, Technology, Medicine, Law, Business, and Social Sciences. The awards are available to graduates who have achieved a first class honours degree or equivalent. The awards are available to graduates who have achieved a first class honours degree or equivalent. The awards are available to graduates who have achieved a first class honours degree or equivalent.

FRIARS SCHOOL

SCHOLARSHIPS 1985

L.A.P.S. Day & Boarding School. 100 boys. Scholarships worth half and three fees will be offered. For further details and prospectus apply to Mr. R. N. Evans, Friars School, Great Chart, Ashford, Kent TN23 3DA. Tel. Ashford 50422.

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THIS WEEK'S SALES AT SOTHEBY'S

London, 34-35 New Bond Street, W1A 2AA Tel: (01) 493 8080	11am: Impressionist & Modern Paintings & Sculpture, Part II	Fri, 7th 11am: English Literature & English History cont.
Mon, 3rd 10.30am: Tribal Art, Jewellery & Furniture.	2.30pm: Impressionist & Modern Drawings & Watercolours.	
Tues, 4th 7pm: Impressionist & Modern Paintings & Sculpture, Part I	Contemporary Art.	Sotheby's Conduit Street
Wed, 5th 10am & 5.30pm: Fine Art & Rarest Wines, Spirits, Vintage Port, Cigars & Collectors' Items.	10.30am English Literature & English History, Printed Books.	Fri, 7th 10.30am: Tribal Art.
10.30am & 2.30pm: 19th & 20th Century Prints.	Autograph Letters & Manuscripts.	Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1AJ
	11am & 2.30pm: Fine Jewels & Jewellery for the Collector.	Tel: 01892 5281
		Fri, 7th 7pm: Vintage & Other Wines.

For information and help in bidding at all London and overseas sales, please telephone John Price, Tel: (01) 492 9880

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Thinking of Selling?	Type of Sale	Next Sale	Closing date & Enquiries
Some of our specialist sales are listed here. If you have an item that you would like to sell, please contact the relevant department on the telephone numbers given.	Carpets	London, 10th Apr.	10th Jan. Jack Francis
	Sporting Guns	London, 10th Apr.	10th Jan. Peter Gribb
	Silver	London, 10th Apr.	10th Jan. Peter Gribb

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BRIGGS, SOUTH HUMBERSIDE

EDUCATIONAL

Nene College Northampton

Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics, Management and Business

Blackwood Hodge Management Centre
Applications are invited for this key post, which now becomes available as a result of the appointment of the present Dean, Dr A. J. Wood, as the Director of the Faculty of Higher Education.
The Faculty has undergone most marked growth in the last nine years and the Dean of the Faculty also manages the Blackwood Hodge Management Centre, which operates successfully on excellent national reputation.
Because of the importance of this key post, the College is anxious to appoint an outstanding leader in this field who combines high academic qualifications in any of the above subject areas, with experience at an appropriate level in industry, commerce or the public sector is desirable and a dynamic entrepreneurial attitude will be a key of Department 6. The post is graded as Burnham Head Further particulars and application forms are available up to 21 December from the Director of Administration, Nene College, Mainston Park, Northampton NN2 7AL (0604 715000) to whom they should be returned not later than 4 January 1985. (S.A.E. please). Potential applicants requiring more information may ring Dr J. A. Frair, Deputy Director (0604 714101).

The Hatfield Polytechnic School of Engineering British Aerospace Research Fellowship in VLSI Design

Applications are invited for the above post, which is funded by British Aerospace and tenable for 3 years in the first instance.
Applicants should have a PhD, MSc or good Honours Degree in Electronic Engineering or other relevant discipline, together with at least 3 years relevant industrial or research experience in digital electronics or signal processing.
The starting salary will be at an appropriate point in the range £12,000 to £16,000 p.a. depending on qualifications and experience.
Further details and application forms are available from: Staffing Office (Ref. 356), The Hatfield Polytechnic, P.O. Box 108, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, Telephone: Hatfield (070 72) 68100 Extn. 309.
The closing date for receipt of applications is 31st December 1984.

CHIROPODY AS A PROFESSION

The demand for the trained man or woman chiropodist in the private sector is increasing. Most of the training necessary to qualify for a Diploma in Chiropody may be taken at home by very specialised correspondence lessons. Full practical facilities are also provided. You are invited to write to the Secretary of the School of Chiropody, The Essex Institute (established 1919), The New Hall, Maldenhead, Berkshire, SL4 7UL, Maidenhead SL2 3JH (2100 24 hours).

MONTESSORI CHILD CARE & TEACHER TRAINING
Unique 1 or 2 year courses leading to an internationally accepted diploma - the valuable qualification for those wishing to work with children.
Full Time & Evening Courses covering Montessori theory and practice. Guided Correspondence Courses. Ring, write or call for Prospectus.
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BEECHWOOD PARK PREPARATORY SCHOOL
2 BOARDING SCHOLARSHIPS
For boys of "good academic ability" aged 10 and under 11, on a full-time basis. The school is a member of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Association. A.S.A. 64V. Tel: 0253 440333.

Cranfield

Are you interested in Information Systems Education for management?
Do you want to join an expanding team at a centre of excellence for management education?
Then ring Bedford (0234) 750111 ext. 3336 for details of a vacancy for a lecturer in Management Information Systems at the Cranfield School of Management.

BRYANSTON MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS
Are you the lucky parent of a talented musician? If so, your child could be one of the lucky ones to win a Bryanston Music Scholarship. The Department and we have scholarships waiting to be won!
Four Junior Music Scholarships worth up to two-thirds of current fees will be offered to boys and girls who will be under 14 on 1st June 1985. The exam will be held at Bryanston on 12th and 13th February 1985.
Two Sixth Form Music Scholarships worth up to two-thirds of current fees will also be offered. The exam will be held on 7th February 1985.
For more information please contact: The Registrar, Bryanston School, Blandford, Dorset BH20 9PX, or telephone 0253 52511.

University of East Anglia Norwich
DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIAL LIAISON
Applications are invited for the post of Director of Industrial Liaison for the University of East Anglia. The post holder will be responsible for the development and maintenance of the University's industrial relations and will be expected to act as a liaison between the University and the industrial community. The post holder will be expected to have a good knowledge of the industrial scene and to be able to communicate effectively with industrial managers. The post holder will be expected to have a good knowledge of the University's industrial relations and to be able to communicate effectively with industrial managers. The post holder will be expected to have a good knowledge of the University's industrial relations and to be able to communicate effectively with industrial managers.

IS YOUR CHILD BRIGHT? ST LAWRENCE COLLEGE JUNIOR SCHOOL
A Church of England Foundation
ENTRY SCHOLARSHIPS: 8+
Two Scholarships at £4,000 will be offered to boys and girls who are under 10 years of age on 1st September 1985. The exam will be held at St Lawrence College Junior School on 12th and 13th February 1985. The exam will be held at St Lawrence College Junior School on 12th and 13th February 1985. The exam will be held at St Lawrence College Junior School on 12th and 13th February 1985.

The American College
LONDON - BRISTOL - LONDON
THE AMERICAN COLLEGE IN LONDON provides a unique opportunity for students to study in a world-class environment. The college offers a wide range of courses in the fields of business, engineering, and the sciences. The college is located in the heart of London, and its facilities are second to none. The college is a member of the Association of American Colleges in the United Kingdom. The college is a member of the Association of American Colleges in the United Kingdom. The college is a member of the Association of American Colleges in the United Kingdom.

BURSAR ST. ALBANS SCHOOL
Applications are invited for the post of Bursar and Clerk to the Governors at St. Albans School which will become vacant on 1st September 1985. The post holder will be responsible for the financial management of the school and will be expected to have a good knowledge of the school's financial affairs. The post holder will be expected to have a good knowledge of the school's financial affairs. The post holder will be expected to have a good knowledge of the school's financial affairs.

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
We are looking for a well-qualified person to join our team of teachers and administrators. The person should have a good knowledge of the British education system and be able to communicate effectively with students and staff. The person should have a good knowledge of the British education system and be able to communicate effectively with students and staff. The person should have a good knowledge of the British education system and be able to communicate effectively with students and staff.

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL, SEVENOAKS, KENT
P.A./SECRETARY TO THE HEADMASTER
The successful candidate will have professional secretarial skills to a high degree and an ability to deal with the Headmaster in a confidential manner. The successful candidate will have professional secretarial skills to a high degree and an ability to deal with the Headmaster in a confidential manner. The successful candidate will have professional secretarial skills to a high degree and an ability to deal with the Headmaster in a confidential manner.

BIOLOGY The King's School, Canterbury
The Headship of the Department will become vacant in September 1985. Candidates able to guide and develop an already vigorous and successful department should apply to the Headmaster, giving the names of three referees. Salary by negotiation.

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SUPPLIERS OF READY CUT AND BENT REBAR IN SAUDI ARABIA WISH TO RECRUIT THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL:
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GCSE or A Level? Applying for a place at a leading school? Now is the time to contact us for expert advice and guidance. Free brochures.
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UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER
RESEARCH STUDENTSHIPS
Applications are invited for research studentships in the Department of Physics. The successful candidate will be expected to have a good knowledge of the subject and to be able to communicate effectively with staff and students. The successful candidate will be expected to have a good knowledge of the subject and to be able to communicate effectively with staff and students. The successful candidate will be expected to have a good knowledge of the subject and to be able to communicate effectively with staff and students.

ASSISTANT TO THE HALL MANAGER
The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the hall and will be expected to have a good knowledge of the hall's affairs. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the hall and will be expected to have a good knowledge of the hall's affairs. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the hall and will be expected to have a good knowledge of the hall's affairs.

STONOR SCHOOL WILTSHIRE
Independent boarding school for boys and girls. The school offers a wide range of facilities and is a member of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Association. The school is a member of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Association. The school is a member of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Association.

SIXTH FORM SCHOLARSHIPS 1985
The successful candidate will be expected to have a good knowledge of the subject and to be able to communicate effectively with staff and students. The successful candidate will be expected to have a good knowledge of the subject and to be able to communicate effectively with staff and students. The successful candidate will be expected to have a good knowledge of the subject and to be able to communicate effectively with staff and students.

UNITED SCIENTIFIC HOLDINGS PLC
COMPANY SECRETARY
The United Scientific Group currently manufactures sophisticated defence products on four continents and has won the Queen's Award for Exports three times. It is now seeking to appoint a chartered accountant who will assume responsibility for all secretarial matters, including the preparation of the monthly management and annual statutory accounts, using computerised consolidation packages. A sound knowledge of taxation would be a welcome attribute. A competitive remuneration package will be negotiated with the successful candidate.

ST JAMES AND THE ARMY
Two SCHOLARSHIPS
of £1,000 per annum, tenable at St James' and The Army School. The successful candidate will be expected to have a good knowledge of the subject and to be able to communicate effectively with staff and students. The successful candidate will be expected to have a good knowledge of the subject and to be able to communicate effectively with staff and students. The successful candidate will be expected to have a good knowledge of the subject and to be able to communicate effectively with staff and students.

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CAREERS INFORMATION

The struggle to speak

JOAN LLEWELYN OWENS on the varied and challenging work of a speech therapist

THE BABY with a cleft palate, the three-year-old whose speech is almost unintelligible, the little girl who gets words in the wrong order after a head injury, the businessman whose speech has been affected by a stroke — all can be helped by the speech therapist.

There are many more communication problems which may be referred to a speech therapist. She — for the profession has so far appealed mainly to women — assesses the problem and decides how to treat disorder of speech and of language. There may be difficulties in which the understanding of both the spoken and written word may be impaired. There may be difficulties which may affect audibility and effectiveness of communication, and which sometimes include the complete removal of the larynx or voice box. And there are problems of fluency, including stammering.

In recent years the profession's expertise has grown. Much research has been done into the way in which language develops in the very young child. New techniques have also been devised for linguistic analysis, and computers are now used to assist in examinations.

"All this," says Diana Cox, chairman of the College of Speech Therapists, "means that we are involved in earlier screening and can treat children better than we used to. Children used to be referred to us at the age of about four or five, but now the average age is about two and a half to three, and

we may see handicapped children from three months onwards."

For the very youngest of these children it is, of course, too early to speak, but the speech therapist may nonetheless be involved. Some handicapped babies have feeding problems because of muscular weakness, and the mother can be shown how to control this and improve the child's ability to feed.

Like the majority of speech therapists with some experience, Mrs Cox specialises in her case with children. At one time, her main task was the assessment of handicapped children which can raise some unusual problems. She told me, for example, of a 10-year-old mentally handicapped boy, with very disturbed behaviour, who had been sent to one school after another and finally completely excluded because of his violence.

Building words
For some reason he had not previously been assessed by a speech therapist, but when he came into Mrs Cox's care a big discrepancy was found between his ability to communicate and his other abilities. So it was decided to introduce him to Makaton, a sign language based on the British sign language for the deaf, and the full-time speech therapist at the boy's new school worked with his teacher.

The boy began to become more attentive and there was no difficult

behaviour at all during the course of therapy session, simply because communication became possible for him through making signs. Eventually, instead of merely making a noise, using a few unconnected words and screaming when he was frustrated, he became well content within this new and educationally sub-normal and began to put words together.

"What this showed," explains Mrs Cox, "is that much of his disturbed behaviour was the result of his failure to make any relationships, because he could not communicate."

Sometimes a child's development is delayed through illness. "You can have a child of normal intelligence who may have had a series of bad colds, catarrh and slight deafness at the age of 18 months or so, when a youngster is normally developing speech and language. This may well mean that his ability to listen to sounds and to monitor his own speech is poorly developed."

What often happens then is that grandma gets anxious, telling the mother that she was much more advanced at his age. Immediately the mother becomes very concerned and puts pressure on the child, making him repeat the same thing again and again.

The tragedy about this sort of situation, points out Mrs Cox, is that the child loses confidence. "You come across children with a strong sense of failure at four or even younger, and they begin badly at school."

What can a speech therapist do for them?
"Make language work fun. See them in a play situation a couple of times a week. Counsel the parents and take the pressure off the children. You can see the child's whole approach to life changing, often quite dramatically."

Speech therapists need to specialise, says Mrs Cox, because much research is being done that one cannot be expert in all fields. Some specialise with the mentally handicapped, some with physically handicapped children, some with those who have a hearing impairment. Particular problems arise with the elderly, including those with psychiatric problems — their communication problems can have a neurological cause, such as Parkinson's disease, or be the result of senile dementia or may just turn out to be management problems, such as ill-fitting teeth!

In all cases, the speech therapist diagnoses the reason for the failure in communication, informing and assisting relatives, care staff and the general practitioner concerned, doing her best to bring about a change for the better.

Another speech therapist I met,

Mrs Anne Christopherson, worked initially with children but is now a specialist in voice, within the head and neck unit of a leading cancer hospital. Much of her work is with people who have had their larynxes removed.

"These patients have to learn a new source of noise and make a pseudo voice, usually an oesophageal voice. It's my job to help them to harness and to perfect this technique. I tell them to pretend that the voice is still there, and that as they get their strength back, so their new voice will grow. It is important to establish a calm approach and take the effort away. I always try to see patients before an operation so that I can assess their individual speech."

Other patients have different problems which emerge during speech therapy. One university professor developed such a raucous voice that his larynx became inflamed and vulnerable to infection. As a result little ulcers appeared on the vocal cords, and surgical intervention was necessary. Afterwards he needed speech therapy, and it emerged during these sessions that he had a great many tensions and anxieties, though none was serious enough to require psychiatric help. Talking to the speech therapist helped him psychologically as well as physically, and he got his voice absolutely right in the end.

"It came to see us a couple of years later," Mrs Christopherson told me, "and he had managed to maintain his improvement. He also said that he had been able to pass on to his students some of the help he had received in learning to relax when tense."

Hard work

Speech therapists either do a three- or four-year course, leading to a first degree or, if they already have a first degree in a related subject, a postgraduate conversion course. The entrance requirements are those of the particular university or college, but most state biology at A level to be highly desirable and often mention other sciences. They are looking for people with a commitment to a caring profession, for maturity, and for resilience both emotionally and physically. A great deal of clinical experience has to be fitted in, as well as theory, and the training is taxing. Once qualified, the speech therapist has the opportunity to rise to senior and chief, and to district level, to do masters' degrees or work for Fellowship of the College. What many find most satisfying is that they do not have to leave their clinical work in order to undertake research. Much of this research is done in collaboration with the medical profession. Speech therapists always liaise closely with other professions although, having diagnosed the speech problem, they take the decision as to what the treatment shall be.

"Speech Therapy as a Career" is available from the College of Speech Therapists, Harold Porter House, 8 Lechmere Road, London, NW2 5BU.

NEXT WEEK: Marketing High Technology by Edward Fennell.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

The Careers Information Service is maintained by Careers Intelligence. It is free to readers. Questions should be sent only to the Careers Information Service, 121 High Street, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH1 2JG. A stamped and addressed envelope must be enclosed. Readers are asked to ensure their names and addresses are legible.

My son is interested in either deep-sea or scuba diving as a career. Could you give me any details of training establishments and prospects? G.B., Suffolk.

Diving is not a career but a means of reaching one's destination, where one has to be able to perform some useful task. Your son must therefore have to be skilled in a particular field such as non-destructive testing, fitting, repair, maintenance engineering. Before he can train as a mixed-air diver, permitted to dive in the North Sea, he has to work as a basic air diver for at least a year. Most people

have to finance their own training, which is very expensive, but someone aged 19 to 26 years who has been away from full-time education for at least two years, may be eligible for a place on the TOPS course at the Underwater Centre, Fort William, Scotland.

All candidates must have recent experience of an occupation requiring manual dexterity such as sheet metal working, welding, construction etc., at sea or as a mechanic. They must normally have O-level arithmetic or maths and preferably English. They must also have passed the British Sub Aqua Club Group A swimming test within the last twelve months.

Other approved diving centres include Fort Bovisand Underwater Centre, Plymouth, Devon; and Pro Dive Ltd, Service Area, Falmouth Oil Exploration Base, Falmouth, Cornwall.

Good salaries can be earned, but the work is arduous and dangerous, and the hours long and irregular. A stringent medical examination must be passed before starting training, and during training many trainees are found to be unsuitable.

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FARMER'S DIARY

Taking stock of passengers on the District Line

JAMES GLADSTONE on an annual event that brings the country up to Town

WE yokels will be conspicuous on the District Line this week, heading for Earls Court and the Royal Smithfield Show. No other event lures so many of us to London.

We will not look the same as the sophisticated City-bound District Line passengers. It is not that we shall have our trousers tied at the knee with twine, or wear smocks, or suck straws. The differences will be more subtle than that.

Our shoes will be stouter than the City man's, our best suits heavier and hairier, and the tending more to greens and browns than blues and greys. We shall carry hats or caps in preference to umbrellas and our faces, ruddier than the habitual commuter's, will reveal an eagerness and excitement about being in town that will contrast favourably with the looks of listless resignation worn by those for whom London is an everyday chore.

The deeper we sink into the mud of our farms, the more we feel like hayseeds when we venture into the metropolis. People, traffic and noise combine to jostle us into feelings of insecurity which we seldom suffer in our own familiar surroundings. Is this the right train? Is it going my way? Where is the ticket? Have I the correct change? Can I squeeze in that carriage?

Dangers that

lie in wait

London is a hundred little decisions never faced in the farmyard or the fields.

There are so many people and things to be avoided. In the field, where he only has to steer clear of cowpats, the farmer walks with his eyes on a point about two yards in front of his leading wheel. In Regent Street such a narrow vision leaves him either under a bus or head-butting oncoming shoppers.

If he raises his gaze to see the people, the shop windows and the traffic, an unsuspected curb lays him low. There are no curbs in a 10-acre meadow.

It is the speed of everything that makes us feel like yokels. There never seems to be time to stop and think, let alone talk. The further from London we live, the more noticeable this is, for the speed of living decreases in direct relation to the number of miles between the barn and Piccadilly Circus.

Although it is uncomfortable to feel like bumpkins, we quietly suspect we are superior to the Townies. When Arsenal played Oxford, recently, the London fans showed their ignorance by taunting their hosts with the obscure Farm Street.

Minority that has gained its majority

SANJOY ROY-CHOWDHURY on the Asian community which is seen but seldom heard

I RECENTLY watched BBC television's Asian news programme on consecutive Sundays. They were dedicated to the demise of Mrs Gandhi.

There was scarcely any new material, which was no fault of the programme makers. The saturation coverage of the preceding days had shown almost everything. And though the programme was in Hindi, it had English subtitles. In other words, it was a feature which performance was neither rich in new material, nor was its target audience well defined.

Established over two decades ago, this pioneer slot helped the immigrants from the Indian nation who were often more than a little lost in an alien environment.

But 20 or 30 years on, times have changed. The outsiders have become far more established.

Appreciation of East and West

When I suggested to my 25-year-old son, who has been here all his life, that the ethnic programme may well be for him, he looked at me with a mixture of incredulity and humour. It is not that he has become a *pukka sahib* (English gent); his devotion to the extended family along with the grandparents and interest in Indian culture is quite remarkable. It is simply that the younger generation of Asians born or brought up in Britain has no problem of communication and has the added advantage of appreciating the cultural heritage of both East and West.

While there is an undoubted need to hear the opinions and feelings of the minority groups, some may well deem these programmes as inverted cultural apartheid.

Indeed, if the programme makers are visionary and businesslike, as they seem to be, they should make a concerted effort to include articulate members of the ethnic community in all sorts of general programmes.

Over the past few years, strides have been made in

breaking the "colour bar" in television news-casting and reporting. They have been well-received by the viewing public. Some programmes have a sprinkling of coloured panelists. But perhaps not enough.

The majority of the Asians or their British-born children are avidly following their vocations and discharging their duties to the community with quiet responsibility and often have no time or inclination to enter into race-raising politics. Yet that does not mean they have no strong points of view to be expressed sensibly through the media or politics.

In the British-born coloured generation lies the additional strength of this country. It is not merely a question of how decently one treats them. More important is how one harnesses the potential of a very large number of qualified citizens.

One thing is sure. This strength may just as easily turn into weakness, if institutionalised racism or indirect discrimination is allowed to proliferate or flourish much further. This time round it is not used against apprehensive immigrants, but to British-born citizens. They know their clout and are in no mood to accept even covert discrimination.

Victims of racial attacks

In my view, almost all necessary legislation exists at least to mitigate areas of unfairness. It probably now needs some vigorous monitoring to ensure its effectiveness.

If about 120,000 police can move around the country because of the miners' strike, surely a crumb of that dedication, firm and sustained policing of a few black spots, could be used to eradicate pockets of cowardly racial violence.

Some of the time-honoured values of this nation are under attack from a number of directions. But it has an ally in the ethnic minority. The Asians, for one, work hard to make their corner a success which helps the country. This could do with a bit of nurturing recognition.

NOTEBOOK: TIM HEALD

IT is a matter of some surprise that, as far as I know, there is no waxwork of "An English Gentleman" in Madame Tussaud's. I see him standing on a piece of "Astro-turf" or "Cyrilwin" masquerading as grouse moor, and I know that while other accountants may be open to argument he will have a hat from Mr. Lock on his head and shoes from Mr. Lobb on his feet. And in his hand he will hold one of Mr. Purdey's



guns. It will set him back a minimum £12,500 but nothing else will quite do.

Purdey is one of those few British brand names that are still, happily if surprisingly, synonymous with excellence. They are still Gun Makers to the Queen, Prince Philip and the Prince of Wales just as they once made guns for Queen Victoria, the Russian Czar and King Alfonso XIII of Spain, described by old Tom Purdey as "the best friend Purdey's ever had." In 1962 General Franco, injured his thumb out shooting with his Purdeys. Not the gun's

fault—he ordered another pair at once. W. G. Grace shot with a Purdey, as did Charles Darwin. Khrushchev ordered no less than four during the 'sixties. Prince Obolensky was a customer, likewise Bing Crosby.

Now, 170 years after the company's foundation, the present chairman, Richard Beaumont has written a history. He was given the company by his uncle, Lord Sherwood, in 1949, after a family misunderstanding. Lord Sherwood had bought the company a few years earlier, because the Purdeys themselves had fallen on hard times; he had also promised Richard Beaumont a duckpond with two acres but somehow the duckpond was sold to someone else and he was prevailed upon to give Richard Purdey's instead.

The first thing I knew about the arrangements," recalls the present chairman in his book, "was when the telephone rang and I was told, Uncle Hughie has given you Purdey's."

He doesn't tell the story as I heard it, which was that on being told of the gift, he exclaimed: "But I've got a pair already."

The firm's headquarters are on the corner of South Audley and Mount Street, a part of the world where, every shop front seems to have a coat of arms over the front door. Once inside you immediately sense an air of tranquil permanence. This may be illusory because there have been times when the company was a hair's breadth from collapse.

*Purdey's, The guns and the family. By Richard Beaumont. David and Charles. £15.

How do you measure up to your gun?



Purdey's across three generations. Tom Purdey in front of the portrait of his grandfather, James Purdey, the younger.

and earlier bosses, especially Purdey's, have been great characters. But once in the inner sanctum you feel that the world is as it was in 1910.

Although it is central London, the loudest sound is the ticking of the clock, reminding you of the interior of a Rolls-Royce which is not, as it happens, a bad analogy. On one wall the enormous picture of James Purdey the Younger, complete with monocle, tweeds, whiskers and one of his guns, dominates the room. It was painted in 1891 by Archibald Stewart-Wrotley.

R.A. who, one need hardly say, was a keen shot and a Purdey devotee. His other famous portrait is of W.G. Grace, but that hangs at Lord's. Here in what is also called the Long Room, though it is shorter than the more famous one in St. John's Wood, the Doctor can be seen in one of masses of photos which plaster the walls. He looks on, if he is about to blast an impudent snapper.

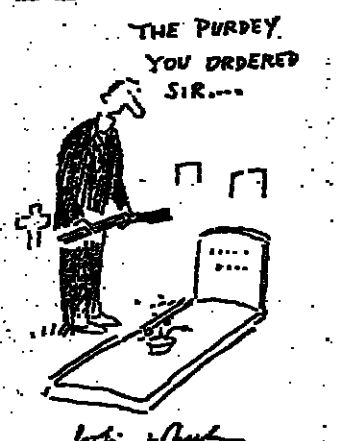
Mr Beaumont, who is small and dapper, charming, humorous and an exceedingly keen shot himself, holds court in the Long Room, sitting at the

boardroom table which is covered in maroon cloth. If you order a gun the chances are that you will come in here and be fitted for it by Mr Beaumont or the managing director. For in that sense, buying a Purdey gun is like buying a suit. You are measured for it, and the more complicated your measurements the happier the firm will be. Their craftsmen, 48 at the factory in west London, like nothing better than the challenge of sighting a gun for a man with only one eye, or making a stock to accommodate a customer who has, say, a few fingers missing.

There is a special adjustable gun in the Long Room, and after Mr Beaumont has discussed the sort of shooting his client will be going in for—whether it's elephants or pigeons as it were—he will bring him and the gun together and take measurements, just like a tailor taking the inside leg. One of the great problems in shooting is not something that bothers me since I retired after my last term as a corporal, in the C.F.E. is that very often the left eye gets stronger with age. Or perhaps the right eye gets weaker. In any event this can be rectified by "casting off." The reputation of the great Lord Ripon, who evidently messed up generations of lesser shots, Lord Ripon shot with both eyes open which suited him but by no means every one who followed suit.

After that first fitting in the Long Room, the customer goes down to the west London Shooting Grounds and has a practical session of target practice, again with an

adjustable gun. Then it's all over to the builders. Purdey's guns are "built." Individual components are "made" to give you an idea of the craftsmanship involved, each stock is made from a block of seasoned walnut purchased on site in the Dordogne. After six years seasoning in France they are seasoned for another five in England. Sometimes when hand working begins an undetectable fault is dis-



covered and the whole thing has to be abandoned. And to give you a further indication of how you achieve perfection each gun is tested personally by the chairman and managing director before the customer gets it. Which is more than two years after the order is first placed.

Each year the company produces only 65 to 70 weapons. In their entire existence since 1814 they have built less than 30,000—all individually numbered. A clear case of small being beautiful.

In 1978, Olivetti introduced the world's first electronic typewriter.

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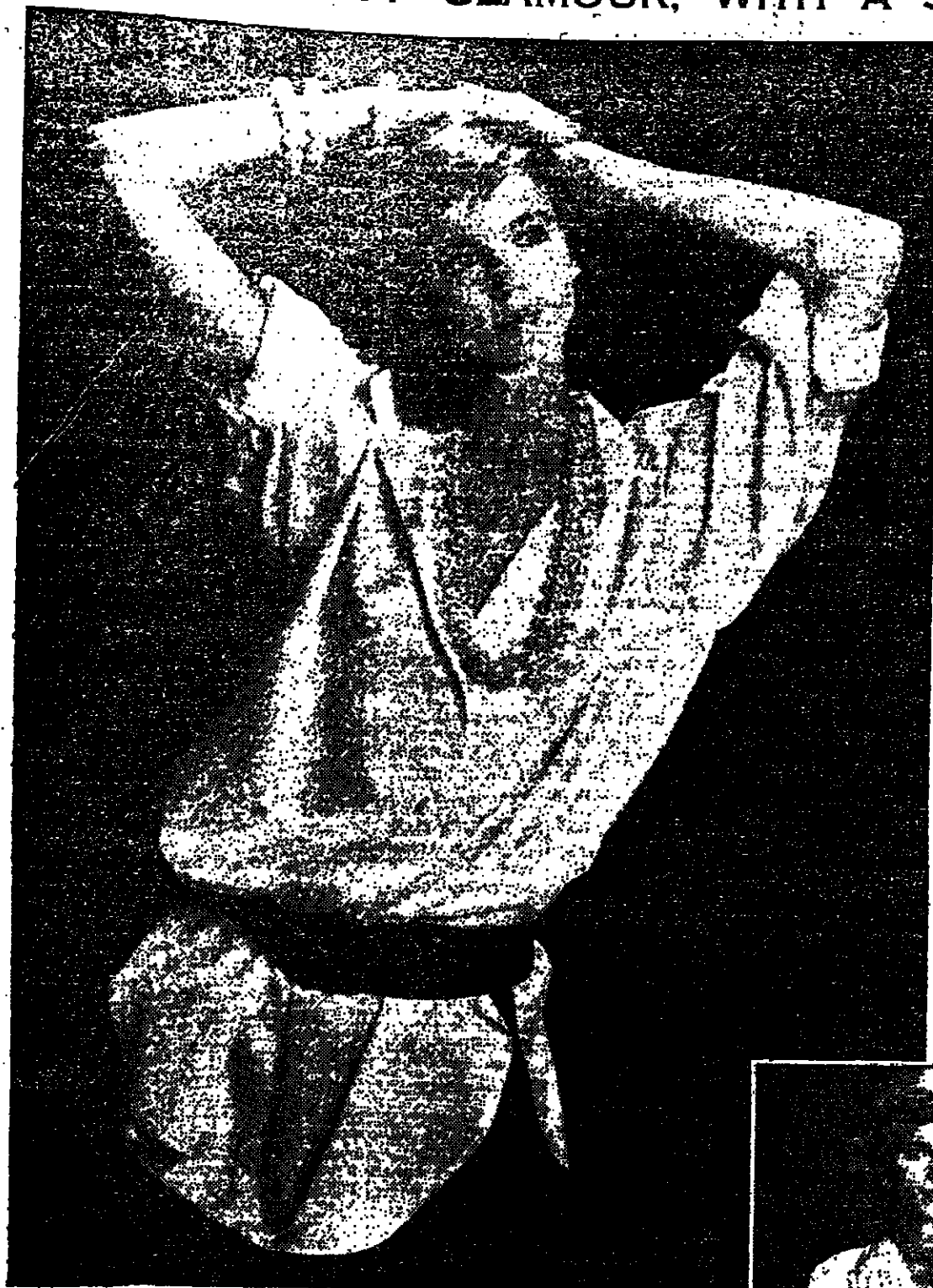
Also confirmed is Olivetti's reputation as the leader in office systems.

WHY THE FIRST ELECTRONIC TYPEWRITER KEEPS ON BEING THE BEST.



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INSTANT PARTY GLAMOUR, WITH A SHIRT



Huge cream satin night-shirt (left) worn as a tunic. Also in black or violet, sizes 8 to 14, £15-99, belt £7-99, both from all branches of Principles. Pearls from a selection at Liberty.

Pictures: KENNETH MASON

Cream satin wrap blouse (below) with a Thirties air, sizes 8 to 14, also in garnet. £29 from all branches of Options at Austin Reed. Necklace and earrings from a selection by Monty Don at Liberty, London W1.



ADDING THE TOPPING

BY ANN CHUBB

NOTHING beats this season's soft satin shirt for a touch of instant party glamour. You can find it at all price levels too, from the designer-labelled versions in pure silk to machine wash-and-wear polyester.

The soft gleam of satin, in either pale creams and silvers or the brighter-than-bright pinks and blues, provides the perfect foil to sombre neutral colours that for most of us, form the sensible backbone of our winter wardrobe.

Satin looks as good, too, mixed unconventionally with daytime fabrics like tweed, flannel or leather as it does with the more expected black velvet or lace of evening.

It is also the perfect day-into-night-time fabric for the working woman — swap your demure daytime top for a T-shirt of bright shiny satin, add some dazzling diamanté.

Paul Costelloe's safari shirt in creamy pure silk, is the ultimate luxury, and in his collection he teamed it with long, lean skirts of Donegal tweed or with

wide, mannish trousers of taupe gaberdine.

A wonderful long length with proper shirt-tails, you can wear it either hip-belted, tunic-style, over a slim skirt or tuck it into trousers. You can pin a brooch beneath the collar for a demure daytime look or leave it unbuttoned and décolleté.

Marks and Spencer's shorter, simpler, polyester version at just £15-99 is a winner — beautifully tailored with just one simple button plus shoulder pads, it looks deceptively pricey, particularly in the subtle

taupe shade. Best of all, it can be popped into the washing machine, emerging with barely a crease so that the minimum of ironing is needed.

Look along the rails of lingerie at Principles (the new Burton chain, whose latest shop has just opened at Edinburgh: there will be two more by Christmas) and you will find the wonderful satin night-shirt we picture.

"Far too good to wear in bed," said our model, and teamed it dramatically with slim black trousers, wide black leather hip belt and a mass of mammoth pearls.



Oyster silk satin safari shirt, above left, also in ginger, deep green, taupe and beige, sizes 8 to 16, £89, by Paul Costelloe from Harvey Nichols, London SW1. Pearls and belt from a selection at Liberty. Right above, taupe satin shirt with a padded shoulder line is in machine-washable polyester, also silver or white, sizes

10 to 18, £15-99 from 50 branches of Marks and Spencer countrywide. Soft jersey evening trousers in black, sapphire or amethyst, sizes 6 to 14, £79 from all branches of Jaeger. Bow brooch, £60 by Monty Don from Harvey Nichols, London SW1.

BABY FASHION NOTEBOOK

As more very premature and low-birthweight babies survive due to improved medical care, the need for something to dress them in becomes more acute.

Tiny, scrawny babies are often not so appealing as full-term ones, and it is important psychologically for mothers to be able to present them prettily to friends rather than in over-large clothes designed for normal-sized newborns.

With this in mind, old-established babywear firm

Harringtons has developed over the past two years a special Low Birthweight Range with dresses, smocks, rompers, stretch-suits, hooded sleeping bags and knitted hats.

All are designed for the warmth and cosiness such a delicate baby needs and will fit weights from 3½ to 7½lb.

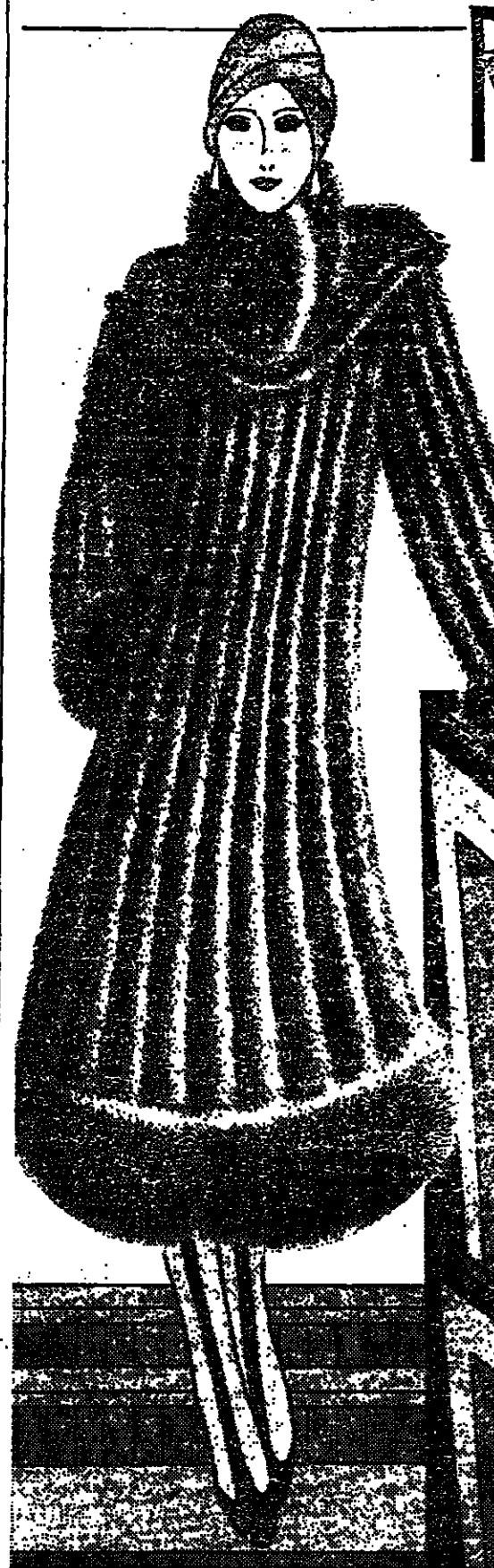
Prices go from £1-45 for hats, though £7-40 for the sleeping bags, to £10-15 for the rompers and £11-65 for the dresses — quite a lot for something the baby will

quickly grow out of and which every mother will hope will not be needed for another member of the family.

But the clothes are beautifully finished with hand-smocking and embroidery and it is worthwhile having one really well-fitting outfit for the permanent record of those first photographs. Stockists include branches of the Alders group, selected House of Fraser stores and specialist babywear shops.

Avril Groom

هكذا من الأهل



RICH FURS THAT DON'T COST A FORTUNE.

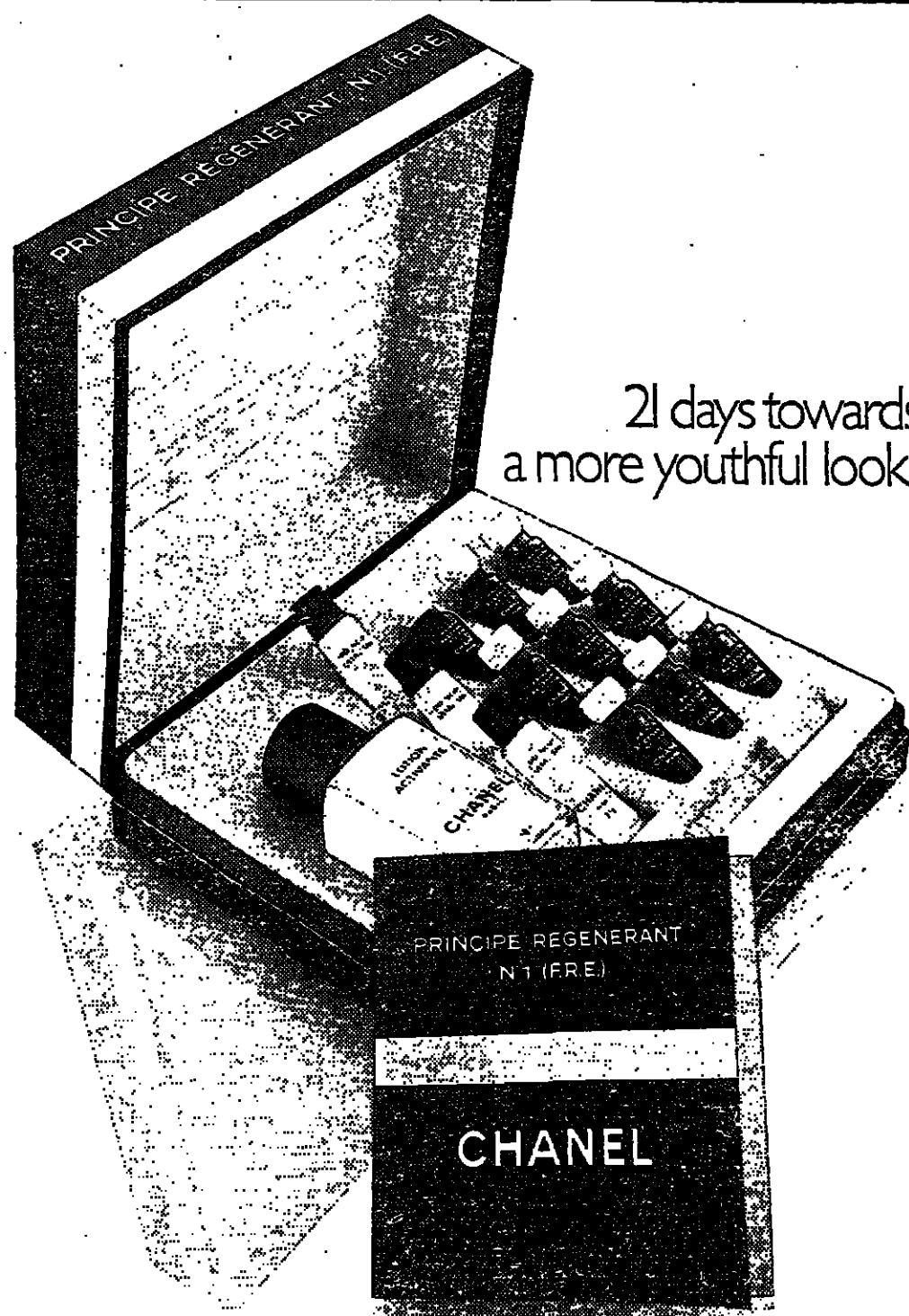
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Constable scene threatened by coach park plan

By JENNY SHIELDS

THE hordes of tourists who visit Salisbury's gothic cathedral and contribute handsomely towards the upkeep of the magnificent building have unwittingly caused a rift between its Dean and Bishop.

In an attempt to relieve the congestion caused in the walled Cathedral Close by tourist coaches, the Dean, the Rev. Sydney Evans, has submitted a plan to Salisbury council which suggests turning the water meadows, nearby into a coach park.

The landscape was immortalised in Constable's study "Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadows".

The plan, which has the support of the Cathedral Chapter, has brought a swift and angry response from several quarters.

The Bishop of Salisbury, Dr John Baker, first heard of the proposal on Thursday after his wife noticed the planning application in a local newspaper.

Dr Baker, speaking from his residence, which would overlook the planned coach park, said yesterday: "I feel this proposal is most unwise. It would create enormous problems for the residents of the Close, which is the finest example of its kind in the country and has remained unchanged for over 800 years."

Attention grabber

The bishop, who is a close friend of the dean, said he felt that there had been "no discussion" over the plan and that it was merely a way of attracting attention to the problem.

"The dean and chapter are desperate to solve the problem but I think it very unlikely that planning permission would be granted in this case," said the bishop.

Mr Robert Key, the city's Conservative MP, who lived in the Close for 35 years and attended the Cathedral School, said yesterday: "I am well aware of the terrible traffic problems, which have got worse and worse over the last 10 years."

"Modern coaches are totally incompatible with a medieval town and we need to look for a radical long-term solution to this problem which would still bring people to the cathedral and the town without spoiling this great part of our national heritage."

Mr Key said the dean, who very much liked the problem, had been portrayed "as some sort of Baroque Towers chronicler" and he added that he was prepared to raise the matter in the Commons if it would help a solution.

Mr John Cordle, a Close resident and former Conservative MP for Bournemouth East, offered a solution yesterday. He said: "We could use part of the old parish garden instead of the meadows which would be an enormous pity but it would save endangering the peace and tranquility of this beautiful place by using the water meadows as a coach park."

Falling that we could try to make a parking place further away and bus tourists into the cathedral.

He said: "The cathedral is a jewel of interest to the nation and unless we safeguard it the place could be destroyed."

In the summer months more than 30,000 people a week pay 50p a head to visit the cathedral and this, said Mr Cordle, had prompted the dean and chapter to worship the God of Money—Mammon.

The dean declined to comment yesterday.

20 SACKED IN LENIN TOWN

Twenty local officials have been sacked in Ulyanovsk, Lenin's birthplace, and nine of them thrown out of the Communist party for abusing their powers, Pravda said yesterday.

The party daily said it had received many letters from people in Ulyanovsk, 375 miles southeast of Moscow, complaining about disrespectful local officials. —Reuters.

£1,072,311 WILL

Mr Victor Silverman, of Rochester Lane, Putney, who died on June 29, left an estate valued at £1,072,311 net (£1,092,311 gross). He left his interest in his membership of "Lloyd's" equally between his three daughters and the residue to his wife, Muriel.

Viscountess Chelsea, who died on Aug. 31, aged 48, left £1,053,214 net (£1,053,120 gross). She was a fashion journalist and a prominent supporter of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Latest Wills—P12

Lunch at a quiet little French place

A BOOM in expense account lunches is taking off — from South-end airport, where businessmen often prefer to fly across the Channel in search of cheaper better food.

Many companies have their own small plane to save travel time for busy executives," said Mr Gerard Barron, press attaché for Calais Chamber of Commerce and the Harbour Board. "It makes sense for them to use it to fly over to Calais, where they can discuss their business in intimate surroundings over good food for which they pay much less than they would at home."

Menu gastronomique

"They come over in the morning and go back in the evening," he said in Calais. "Le Clement" at Ardres, 20 kilometres from the airport, has four or five planes a week with up to four businessmen on a flight. Sometimes they bring clients.

Sometimes they are meeting people from one of the companies in France in which there is a British interest.

The menu gastronomique, reckoned the best in the area costs 250f (about £25) for seven courses, half the price of a similar menu in London.

The menu gastronomique at a business meal is a favourite, Le Channel in Calais is 195f (about £18) with choices of salmon, langoustine, escargots, duck, turbot and beef with a bottle of wine per person.

Patient care being sealed with a farewell kiss from Sister Joyce Lobo yesterday when Mr Len Murray left the National Heart Hospital accompanied by his wife Heather after his coronary artery by-pass operation. "They work miracles here," said the former TUC general secretary, "but miracles cost money." He pleaded for more N H S funds to fight heart disease.

'Illegitimate' daughter to claim inheritance

THE 24-year-old allegedly illegitimate daughter of a barrister is expected to go to court to claim her inheritance from the £500,000 estate of the man she thought was her grandfather.

Mr William Bruce Spalding, 54, a barrister, declared last year that he was not the father of two of his wife's four daughters, Catriona, 24, and Gervaise, 22.

Lawyers believe the girls could now be deprived of up to £500,000 left to each of them by Mr Spalding's father, Capt. Tom Spalding, who married into a wealthy publishing family.

But yesterday Mr Nicholas Munns, solicitor for Catriona, said: "My client is likely to make a claim under the estate."

Public declaration

Catriona was spending yesterday with her fiancé, an airline pilot. He said: "We have no comment to make."

Mr William Bruce, as Mr Spalding is known to the family, a patent lawyer, of Chiswick, with a practice in New Court, Middle Temple, made a statutory declaration last December that the two girls were illegitimate.

Their birth certificates were then altered to omit the name of the father and his occupation.

Until then the girls, with their sisters Leonie, 25, and Simone, 20, were to inherit

PRISON POST FOR WOMAN

MISS Josephine Fowler, 57, is to become deputy governor of Winson Green prison, Birmingham, considered one of the country's largest and most overcrowded all-male jails.

The appointment takes effect today. It is believed to be the first time a woman has been given such a senior job in a prison of this size.

Women governors and deputy governors have previously been appointed only at smaller male custodial centres.

Miss Fowler, who will earn between £16,997 and £20,287, has been at the prison for a week for a hand-over period and now starts an induction course. She joined the prison service at 22 after studying to be a teacher.

Her last appointment was as governor of Whiston detention centre, Nottinghamshire.

"I asked to come to Winson Green, because I wanted to broaden my experience," she said. "It will be quite a challenge."

BOND WINNERS

The winners of this week's major Premium Bond prizes are: £100,000, 161P 758535 (winner lives in West Midlands); £50,000, 132K 028905 (Bedfordshire); £25,000, 16YP 305157 (Surrey).

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INVESTMENT & BUSINESS

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Reaping a bitter harvest

INTERNATIONAL Harvester Co. may have been the first of the big farm equipment manufacturers to give up on its money-losing machinery division, but it is not alone.

In the process International Harvester, which once employed nearly 100,000 people worldwide, will be reduced to a domestic truck company with no overseas divisions and few foreign sales.

As recently as last August the company's executives told reporters that they had no intention of selling the farm equipment division, which had been losing roughly \$300 million annually in past years.

What changed their minds? The realisation that the farm equipment market, which is suffering from excess capacity and sluggish farm prices, will never pick up enough to bring the industry out of its Harvester, back to profitability.

"We've had to recognise that the outlook for the farm economy, especially in the United States, over the course of the next few years is not good," explains International Harvester's chief financial officer Jim Cotting.

The outlook for the farm equipment business is for a very modest and slow recovery. We saw that it would take several years to achieve a level of financial performance in the

THE AMERICAN INTERVIEW

business that we felt necessary—and a significant investment and fair amount of risk to boot.

There was also worry about Washington, Mr. Cotting notes. A big move is afoot at the White House to do the farm industry what has been done to the airlines, trucks and banking industries, namely, reduce the government's role in the business.

The administration has said that one of its top priorities during the next year is to re-think farm policy and the way the government supports the farm economy. Mr. Cotting says, "For the past 40 years we have had policies involving farm subsidies which a large body of people now believe aren't the right kind of policy needed to return the farm economy to health."

Mr. Cotting thinks that the United States' government's considerable involvement in the farm economy will be drastically cut back in coming years. Harvester's executives decided not to stick around and face the industry's doom but to follow government policy.

The airlines and trucking industries have faced adjustments in the wake of "deregulation". It resulted in mergers, consolidations and some bankruptcies.

In the trucking industry you had a situation where the change in government policy, deregulation, which was the right thing to do in the long term for the industry, caused several years of difficulty. We see that potential in the farm economy, as well.

Even if the Reagan team does not alter farm policy, subsidies or regulation of the agriculture industry, farm gear makers, currently operating at 40 p.c. of capacity, could still face a shakeout, the Harvester officer explains.

"There is certainly overcapacity in the farm machinery industry. There is a need for dramatic change. It must take place. You can see that just by looking at the companies and the condition that they're in."

Although Mr. Cotting refuses to speculate which companies would be affected if an overhaul in the industry does occur, Massey-Ferguson and Allis-Chalmers top most analysts' list of consolidation targets. John Deere, the industry leader, is the only company believed to be healthy enough to survive a shakeout.

Lauren Chambliss

Telecom shares may open with 40p premium

By ROLAND GRIBBIN

ESTIMATES of today's opening premium on British Telecom shares were being revised upwards to 40p yesterday, an 80 p.c. profit on the partly-paid 50p shares, after the formal release of details about the record-breaking issue.

The maximum allocation of 800 shares to the public and the rejection of any bid for more than 100,000 had jobbers, planning around-the-clock service when dealing get under way, reworking their calculations.

One said: "It's going to be a nightmare to start with. The main problem is going to be to find the sellers, and it's going to be very difficult to find the right level."

I feel the premium will be around 25p. But it could go higher. It's unlikely there will be any small shareholders selling to take profits and institutions will be disappointed at getting nothing extra.

Another said: "It's hazardous to guess, but I think the premium could be between 30p-40p. People will be pleasantly surprised. If it goes high the United States investors may well come in as sellers."

Terry Connor, senior partner in the Biscuit, Bishop, said: "The response hasn't come as a surprise. The small market has been looked after and the City will be quite happy to take second place, but it's difficult to say what the premium will be."

Earlier estimates about the premium ranged up to 20p, but the size of the oversubscription and freeing up of institutions looking to top up their allotments as well as major professional investors was yesterday's chaotic trading.

The 2.56 billion shares on offer in Britain attracted applications for 12.75 billion worth 16.5 billion in total, more than eight times the normal annual equity investment in the London market.

Currys in legal move to block Dixons bid

By JOHN RUDOLFSKY

DIXON Group's £250 million takeover bid for Currys Group, which on Friday looked to be home and dry, took an astonishing turn over the weekend as Currys successfully mounted a legal action to block the deal.

Currys, who had been taking place last night with the City Take-over Panel ahead of a hearing this morning in a High Court judge's chambers. The Stock Exchange will be asked this morning to halt trading in Currys shares before the market opens.

On Friday Scottish Amicable, with 0.7 p.c. of Currys, sent its brokers round to Dixons' advisers Morgan Grenfell to withdraw their acceptance. The broker's authority was apparently questioned, withdrawn and shortly afterwards Dixons claimed victory with 50.8 p.c. of the shares in its favour. Later in the day it said it had 51.4 p.c.

Currys believes that Scottish Amicable should have been able to withdraw and claims other institutions were thinking of doing the same until they heard Dixons had won.

Currys's very late in the day

JOHNSON Group Cleaners, fighting off a £50 million takeover bid from Marks & Spencer supplier Nottingham Manufacturing, yesterday predicted that it will make 26.1 million pre-tax profits for the 52 weeks to December 31.

This is down on the 26.3 million the group made in the 52-week period to the end of September. But, more important, it predicts it will make 26.7 million in the first half of 1985 compared with the rather poor 22.7 million it made in the interim stage this year.

The first half was down because of the exceptionally hot weather and the start of the miners' strike. Full year figures further reflect these factors.

Next year's interim forecast assumes no change in the miners' situation but does assume the weather will be normal. It also takes into account the first positive contribution from Johnson's string of United States contributions.

Given the forecast, the group plans a 15-42p second interim

COMPUTERS

Portables prove popular

PORTABLE typewriters are sold more than 100,000 units a year, but people continue to buy them because they are light, compact and cheap. And one of the few detectable trends at the recent American Comdex show was a similar preference in computers.

These are different from the transportables which are the size of a small suitcase, weigh up to 30 pounds and need mains power—new technology is providing a new generation of fully capable machines the size of portable typewriters and weighing under 10 pounds.

Industry experts reckon this is where the future lies. Research company Dataquest

Both the One and the Pro

LOMBARD STREET

CITY CATS SEE THE CREAM

THE sound of meowing echoes along that oddly-named City byway Crutched Friars. From a dozen marketplaces cats come loping in.

They have been shown the way to the dairy and they want their share of the cream. But, as the meowing grows louder, the cream threatens to run dry.

Crutched Friars (their "crutches" were crosses) is the home of the International Commodities Clearing House, which handles and guarantees contracts in everything from next month's exchange rates to next year's potato crop.

Now the Clearing House has made a contract of its own, a new deal with a major customer, LIFFE—in full, the London International Financial Futures Exchange. That deal has lifted LIFFE's saucer and has set all the other cats meowing.

When they look closer they may mew louder. They will doubtless know that the Clearing House is cutting its clearing charges to LIFFE by 63 p.c. or more and renegotiating the charge for its guarantee. Wait until they work out what the deal is worth to LIFFE.

At an average trading level of 10,000 lots a day, LIFFE will save £1.1 million a year. If the average rises to 15,000 lots, LIFFE will save £1.5 million. The market is now averaging between 11,000 and 12,000 lots.

In addition LIFFE got an immediate payment from the Clearing House of £280,000. Then there are new terms for interest on the money put up as margin and in effect banked with the Clearing House. These, on a line through last year's figures, will be worth about £500,000 in additional interest paid to members of the market—to be split between themselves and their customers.

Mashed

That is milk for thought to the Clearing House's other customers round the City—to the London Commodities Exchange, with its markets in sugar, coffee, cocoa, rubber, soy and wool; to the Stock Exchange, where the Clearing House looks after traded options; to the International Petroleum Exchange; the London Gold Futures Market, neediest of all, now forced to abandon hope of an independent

existence; and to the little group who assemble in the Baltic Exchange's marble transept, to deal in potato futures, and who, if short of November potatoes on Friday, found themselves comprehensively mashed.

The Commodities Exchange must be the Clearing House's biggest customer, and in a sense its founder-member. It is 96 years since refugees from Germany—where Bismarck had outlawed futures trading—set up the Clearing House with the backing of the sugar trade. The first chairman was a Mr. Czarnikow—then, as now, a mighty name in that market.

The Clearing House's services vary from customer to customer and comparisons could mislead, but the Exchange would rely on its long and close connection to earn terms no less fair than those given to anyone else.

The Clearing House ruled off its books on Friday night at the end of its financial year. In the year to November 1983, profits before tax had risen by more than half to £8,936,000.

But the year just ended will fall a good way short of that, with quiet times in many markets. The opening of a new year would not be the most propitious moment to cede LIFFE £1.6 million or

more out of the profits—even if the ceding were to stop at LIFFE.

Wherever the ceding has to stop the Clearing House and its customers have to work out new relationships. There, too, LIFFE has shown the way. LIFFE and the Clearing House are working together on a system to be operated by a jointly-owned company. This will be non-profit-making and will contract much of its work out to the Clearing House—provided the price is right.

The Commodities Exchange is thinking over this gesture. Some of its members have balked after a direct stake in the Clearing House. Others argue that since the Clearing House sets rules for the market—for instance, on margin requirements—its independence should confirm its impartiality.

The LIFFE solution could meet both cases. But the Clearing House, as Ian McGaw, its managing director, says, "faces a fairly tricky transition."

Just as well, for all concerned, to be facing it with the support of shareholders whose idea of the transitional is longer than next week, or next year. It was not always so. In 1939 war closed the markets, postwar controls kept them closed, but one shrewd man

guessed they would reopen—Gibson Jarvis of United Dominion Trust.

In 1950 UDT took over the Clearing House. If it sat rather oddly with UDT's hire-purchase business and its car hire side, not matter much the mid-1970s, when UDT ran into storms and had to be rescued by the Bank of England's kith and kin.

The Clearing House was strong, its business was booming—but, as the guarantor of every contract in many major markets, it found itself owned by a company whose own credit could not stand on its own feet.

Big four

The Trustee Savings Bank finally bought UDT out of the lifeboat and an august consortium bought the Clearing House from the TSB. The Big Four Banks have 20 p.c. each. Williams & Glyn's and Standard Chartered 10 p.c. each.

Their backing for the Clearing House was an unwritten condition of the Bank of England in allowing LIFFE to be set up. But they bought it when it was making record profits, more than £12 million, and they paid proportionately.

Their patience should earn its keep. In London, the new securities markets will be overcrowded places with more market-makers, willing or forced to take bolder views—and needing the safety net which a futures market can give. Deregulation, spreading across the world's market, may bring more business to the Clearing House's network of branches and clearing systems spread across five continents, ready for the 24-hour trading which will now be the style of futures markets.

As the regulations lift the strength of the Clearing House's guarantee, and the depth of its backers' pockets, will make more than ever. As boundaries blur and markets overlap the Clearing House can offer centralised services—offsetting credits and debits between markets, cutting out the duplication of payments, and documents, and computer systems, and the use of collateral. The shareholders know, too, that it all means new business across their own counters.

There should, then, be cream for all in the end. But try telling that to the cats now.



Consumer spending to soar

CONSUMER spending is set to grow by 10 per cent over the next five years, according to the Henley Centre for Forecasting.

"If one were to assume, for the purposes of this forecast, that present day prices were in force five years hence, then consumer spending would be worth some £160 billion extra."

Alternatively, claims Henley, for every £12 now being spent by consumers, in 1989 there would be an additional £1 spent.

'New money' falls

STATISTICS compiled by Samuel Montagu show that the amount of "new sterling money" raised by the issue of marketable securities decreased slightly in November to £624m, compared with £728m in October and £535m in November 1983.

Nineteen companies raised new money. Three companies obtained full listings during the month, raising £5.9m in new money. Of the nine companies entering the unlisted securities market, raising some £16m, all but one were by way of a placing.

Bishop's attack

THE Bishop of Birmingham, Dr. Hugh Montefiore, hit out at high interest rates in the December issue of Banking World. He says that there are "grave moral objections to some modern loans and interest."

The biblical injunctions may no longer be applicable to interest as such, says the Bishop. "But they are still relevant to all interest which exploits the poor."

Anglo-American

MONEY BROKER Charles Fulton

has set up a joint venture company with United States government securities broker Cantor Fitzgerald in London to deal with the needs of both British and United States government securities.

The companies will be American-style inter-dealer brokers (IDBs) and offer a screen service to match bargains between market makers who find themselves long or short

By Michael Beckett

LITE have a full display screen of the conventional 25 lines with up to 80 characters, but they use liquid crystal displays (LCDs) rather than the technology of digital watches (displays) which are only just becoming available in this size.

It was the development of such screens that made such machines possible because they use less power, are lighter and much more compact than the traditional cathode ray tube. They are not all gain though. They are less easy to read and the low contrast display gets tiring to watch after a time.

The only real alternative at the moment is the electroluminescent screen used in the Compass Grid—far superior but much more expensive.

PATERSON ZOCHONIS

Highest ever profits in Centenary Year

Highlights of the year ended 31st May 1984

	1984	1983
Turnover:	£262 million	£276 million
Profit before tax:	£30.9 million	£26.9 million
Total dividend per share:	5.15p	4.75p

"Despite a year of difficult and at times, uncertain trading conditions the group in 1984 produced its highest-ever profits."

Nigeria

In Nigeria three factors benefitted the group. Firstly, a four year £100 million capital expenditure programme to increase local manufacturing capacity had reached completion; secondly, the Nigerian Government, having classified soaps and detergents as essential commodities, provided the requisite import licenses for raw materials and spare parts; thirdly, the group continued its policy of financing adequate levels of its raw material and other import requirements. Operations in Nigeria thus made a significant contribution to the Government's efforts to alleviate shortages and also produced higher profits.

Cussons

The contribution of the Cussons group showed an improvement over the previous year with Australia and Kenya reporting their highest profits to date.

In the United Kingdom Cussons' results continued to be depressed by the slow recovery of manufacturing performance and by higher raw material prices.

Other operations

The performance of other group operations overseas was generally satisfactory apart from Greece, where results have been adversely affected by increasingly harsh price controls.

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Plenty of scope for greater productivity

A CURIOUS form of economic schizophrenia seems to afflict current discussions of productivity. Claims of a productivity "breakthrough" are hailed as heralding a new economic dawn in which a revitalised British industry is emerging phoenix-like from the ashes of recession to take on all comers.

At the same time rapid productivity growth is regarded as inimical to jobs, raising disconcerting visions of a select band of privileged workers, aided by robots and word processors, producing goods and services society demands while a vast and growing army of jobless and marginal co-exists on the bread-line.

The facts are fortunately somewhat more prosaic. There has without doubt been a spectacular revival of productivity in manufacturing since 1980 after a dismal performance for most of the previous decade. Over the past four years output per person employed has jumped by nearly a quarter compared with an increase of less than 5 p.c. between 1975 and 1979.

But a look beneath the surface reveals an underlying improvement which, while substantial, is rather less impressive.

The collapse of manufacturing output between 1979 and 1982 provoked a massive shake-out of labour, widespread factory closures and wholesale scrapping of plant and equipment. On the plausible assumption that the least efficient capacity is scrapped first, the average productivity of the remainder automatically increased. This is purely a statistical improvement, like boosting the batting average of a cricket team by not playing the tailenders. It does not mean the rest of industry is working more efficiently.

In addition, productivity has a natural tendency to rise in periods of economic recovery because companies first use their existing workforce and plant more intensively—more overtime, shiftwork and so on—before deciding whether conditions merit taking on extra workers or investing in new capacity.

A brave stab at disentangling these effects from the underlying trends, has been

ECONOMIC COMMENTARY



By Frances Williams

made by Dr John Muellbauer of Nuffield College, Oxford, in a paper he is giving today to an independent London-based think-tank, the Centre for Economic Policy Research.

He estimates that between 1980 and 1983 output per head in manufacturing may have grown by an underlying 3 p.c. a year against crude recorded growth of more than 5 p.c.

This is double the meagre 1.5 p.c. averaged during the oil-shocked and inflationary 1970s, on Dr Muellbauer's adjusted figures. But it is scarcely the stuff of miracles. It is in fact significantly less than the 3.5 p.c. a year increase in (adjusted) productivity of the high-employment years between 1955 and 1973.

Manufacturing, as the most traded sector, is critically important to the health of the British economy. But it provides only a quarter of all jobs—and about the same fraction of output.

Measured productivity in services, especially labour-intensive services like nursing or catering, typically grows much more slowly. Output per head in the whole economy has grown recently at only half the rate of that in manufacturing.

The Treasury's view, which seems to be fairly widely accepted, is that the underlying rate of productivity growth may now be about 2 p.c. a year or slightly more against 1 p.c. between 1973 and 1979 and 2.25 p.c. in the 1950s and 1960s.

We should certainly be able to improve on our 1970s performance. Industry is undoubtedly more cost and efficiency conscious. And there is plenty of scope to do better.

Output per person in British manufacturing is less than half that of Germany and Japan and not much more than a third that of the United States.

But the Treasury believes that for the economy as a whole a declining North Sea energy sector, an expanding labour force and the expectation that this will be absorbed largely by relatively low-productivity occupations in service industries means that Britain may not return to pre-1975 rates of productivity growth.

This is a pity rather than a blessing. It is because of this country's relatively poor performance in the past that we have fallen ever further behind our trading partners in economic prosperity and living standards.

Countries where output per head has grown more rapidly than here also have a better unemployment record than we do. Even in Britain it tends to be the high productivity industries which have expanded fastest and created most jobs.

This is because—as the Midland Bank Review pointed out last week—increased productivity itself generates growth. By lowering costs it aids competitiveness and keeps inflationary pressures down. And it boosts demand through higher rewards to workers through enhanced business profits which can be spent on investment and new recruitment, or through lower prices which increase consumers' purchasing power.

These forces have been restrained in the past five years by the Government's overriding commitment to squeezing inflation out of the system. The rise in productivity has not been matched by higher output per head, for any given inflation target a faster increase in productivity means the Government can afford to pursue more expansionary policies to promote growth.

With inflation now low and fairly stable, and the political pressures to do something about unemployment mounting by the day, the balance of priorities points clearly in the direction of growth rather than a further significant reduction in inflation. Of this the Chancellor and his advisers are well aware.

United transfer to big league

FEW CURRENT takeover tales promise to unwind as smoothly as that of United Newspapers and Link House, publishers of Exchange and Mart.

Link House has already agreed the terms of an £89 million offer and United Newspapers has received acceptance in respect of 59.5 p.c. of Link's equity.

Considering that the terms of the share offer—247 United for every 100 Link—value the Link House shares at 780p each, which is almost 200p a share ahead of the pre-offer price, there are unlikely to be many complaints about acceptance of the bid.

With Link House forecasting £9 million pre-tax for the current year to June 30 against £7.8 million the exit earnings multiple is 16 which while not overgenerous given Link's profits record does provide a reasonable premium.

The most important feature of this takeover however is that it heavily underlines United's intention to expand into the big league, in this country and overseas.

United is capitalised at around £115 million, if the Link House takeover is completed successfully its market capitalisation will rise to more than £180 million.

Not only will that make it a

more acceptable investment to the institutions which concentrate on large companies, it will also equip it better for expansion into the United States—and area it has been seeking opportunities in for some time.

United has forecast current year profits of at least £18 million and, together with the Link House projection, that suggests a pro forma profit for the enlarged group of £28.4 million even after allowing for £1.1 million interest on the estimated cash element of the offer.

That implies earnings dilution on the expanded capital of around 15 p.c. but with the United's shares at 315p the price earnings multiple (actual) is 15.6.

The acquisition of Link House will bring in substantial pre-tax profits, without recourse to heavy capital investment.

There should be some scope for margin improvement in Link's magazine division which should also fit in neatly with United's previous large acquisition, Gralla Publications of the United States. Gralla has already gained useful experience in running exhibitions associated with its magazines and United might be able to apply this practice to Link.

United's shares are not expensive for a company which has increased profits from just



£1.86 million in 1981 and the longer term prospects must be enhanced by the successful completion of this purchase.

Falcon shares some way to go

FALCON RESOURCES which came to the market in July via an introduction, accompanied by a rights issue, promises to become one of the oil sector's star performers over the next couple of years.

That may seem an extravagant claim to make for a company which declared first half profits to June of just £35,000 but Falcon is developing rapidly.

When it came to the market the company, which was effectively a year old boasted

proved and probable oil and gas reserves of \$42 million. Of these more than 90 p.c. were attributed to the 2,000 acre Little Will prospect in Colorado, about 60 miles north east of Denver, in which Falcon has a 42 p.c. interest.

Since then it has acquired a 32 p.c. interest in a 55,000 acre site at Owl Creek one mile north of Little Will.

It has drilled 23 wells at this site since going public with only one dry well. At the Little Will site it has so far drilled 14 wells all of which have been successful.

For a drilling operation such as Falcon which is generally regarded to have a risk factor somewhere between that of "development" and "wildcat" wells that is a remarkable success rate and is explained by the fact that both the Little Will and Owl Creek prospects include two oil bearing "blanket sands" which substantially reduce the risk of a dry well.

When the company produces its first annual report early next year its proved and probable reserves will undoubtedly be many times the level shown in the rights issue document.

Profits for 1984 will be tiny but the company should be in a position to pay a small dividend. However, as the drilling pro-

gramme takes off—a further 50 wells at Owl Creek are planned before the current year ends—so internal profits estimates for 1985 are being steadily upgraded. A pre-tax total of \$5.3 million now looks a bare minimum.

The shares at 156p have already performed strongly since the 85p rights price but should still have a long way to go, assuming the company makes no further calls on shareholders in the next 18 months.

COMPANIES

Marshall's Halifax

MARSHALL'S HALIFAX, the concrete products and handling equipment group, is raising £5.3m with a one-for-five rights issue at 100p a share. Proceeds will fund the continuing policy of investing in plant and machinery; the group has also identified opportunities for investing in new products and technologies.

Opening half pre-tax profits rose from £3.02m to a record £5.48m on turnover £3.79m ahead at £5.5m.

The interim dividend is held at 2p and a maintained final of 1p is expected on the increased capital—indicating 8p for 1984-85.

Earnings came out at 10.06p (13.46p). The board has trading in the second half continued "satisfactorily". In the closing months of 1983-84, the group made £2.00m pre-tax to hit the full year return to a record £5.07m.

Technology

TECHNOLOGY for Business, the computer systems supplier which came to the unlisted securities market in July, 1983, is raising some £1.16m in an issue of 7 p.c. preference shares, to provide working capital. The board will offer institutional investors £750,000 of preference shares and offer shareholders a further £500,000 at £1 a share. Stockbrokers Greene & Company will find buyers for shares not allocated.

Wiljay-Gooding

GOODING GROUP, a private company which is making an agreed £10,000 bid for Wiljay, has received acceptance representing 11.5 p.c. of the Ordinary shares taking its total holding to 82.18 p.c. The offer is extended until 3.30 p.m. December 13.

Confusing times for POW

THE SHARE price movements of Comfort Hotels and Prince of Wales tell an almost identical story which is only to be expected since they are both the subject of takeover bids. Indeed, POW has actually agreed to a cash or share offer from Comfort.

Comfort, meanwhile, is fighting off an unwanted bid from holiday group Intasun Leisure. The result certainly for POW shareholders is confusion.

Comfort's cash offer for POW is 95p a share; its share offer on the other hand is worth around 134p, but that is calculated on a price which is itself inflated by the Intasun bid.

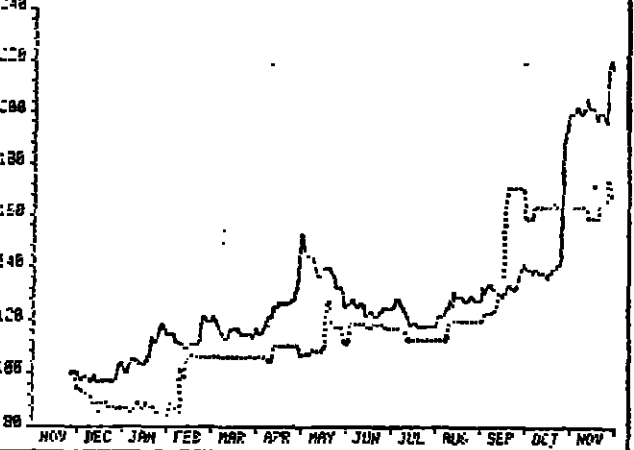
It is well known that Intasun's main interest is Comfort's earnings from its London hotels which contribute more than half of pre-tax profits.

If Comfort dilutes that proportion by bringing in POW's regional hotels, it may not strike Intasun as anything like as attractive.

Intasun has plenty of money to play around with, having just netted a £28 million surplus on the sale of aircraft, in addition to the £35 million cash residing in its accounts. But there must be a question mark over its intentions now.

The hotel sector has been a strong performer lately and may still have some way to go but assuming Comfort makes £2.5 million pre-tax in the current year its exit earnings multiple will be 18 times which is already up with the sector's leaders.

If Intasun were to walk away the downside could be around two points or about 15p. Considering that Intasun



is in a position to up its offer, Comfort holders may consider that risk worth taking. But POW holders would probably do well to sell in the market now. If Comfort's shares do come back to 60p the share offer for the POW shares will drop to 108p, against a present price of 116p.

BANKING

Midland to cut 400 staff

MIDLAND BANK International is planning to cut 400 staff in London and other offices over the next year as part of a major cost-cutting exercise.

This follows staff cuts of 200 this year and 100 last year. Since 1980, Midland has reduced staffing levels in its international division by over 300. So if the latest cuts go through, the international workforce based in Britain will have been pruned by roughly a quarter to around 3,500.

Midland has told its options that the latest job reductions will be achieved mainly

through natural wastage but the bank will not rule out the possibility of redundancy payments.

The Midland move to cut jobs against the trend for the City where booming conditions in international financial markets have provided a buoyant market for jobs.

Midland's move to cut jobs is aimed at boosting the profitability of its international operations at a time of well-publicised problems abroad, notably in California, where Midland's subsidiary, Crocker National, has incurred huge losses.

Crocker is also understood to be embarking on a programme of staff reductions.

Midland created a stir three years ago when it announced plans to reduce head office and United Kingdom branch staff by a total of 5,000 or 10 p.c. The move was seen as part of the bank's determination to get its cost structure under control.

At the time, Midland was heavily overstaffed compared with the other major banks.

Staff reductions on the domestic side have been achieved mainly through a two-year ban on new recruitment.

The drive to save money in international banking is part of a far more cost-conscious approach throughout the Midland group. Ten days ago, Midland's finance house sub-

Daily Telegraph Share Race

WE are into the last lap of the 1984 Daily Telegraph share race and Pentland Industries looks every inch a winner. The footwear specialist has an almost unbeatable lead, although anything can still happen.

Its shares were priced at 56p (adjusted for a scrip issue) when the race started on January 3 and at the date of our latest table they were at 257p.

The sports shoe for running and jogging have been an outstanding success, particularly in the United States. This year the group secured world selling rights which have boosted results and its share price.

But as the company tells us

its other activities have been going well too. Its Priently Footwear factory in Lancashire, for example, has increased output and taken on more staff.

Palatmaker, Donald Macpherson, taken over earlier in the year, is still holding on to second spot. But Computer and System Engineering is very close behind. They have been "swapping" second and third places for several weeks.

Samuelson Group is perhaps putting up the strongest fight and could well improve its place before the race ends.

Final placings in the race will be announced later this month.

Mining: Money & Exchanges—P18

sidary, Forward Trust, said it will be cutting staff by 550 out of a total of 2,100 as part of a restructuring programme which also involves major branch closures.

And at the beginning of the year, Midland's Northern Ireland subsidiary, Northern Bank, announced its intention of cutting staff by 300, or 10 p.c.

To meet the problems of international banking, Midland has also said that it plans to reduce its balance sheet by about £2 billion as an alternative to raising fresh capital at a time of investor resistance.

As a first step, Midland is understood to have launched a co-ordinated approach throughout the group to the raising and redepositing of international deposits.

Anne Segall

CHAIRMEN

AB Electronic Products—Henry Krogh: First half should show good improvement on corresponding period.

CH Beazer—Brian Beazer: Healthy trading and group in strong financial position.

Charterhall—Derek Williams: Look forward to continued growth in assets and income.

C P Computers—David Paine and Tom Wipac: Problems associated with Shugart will continue to be reflected in results for first half.

Dejans Group—John Agnew: Trading continues to be buoyant and four new stores will open in the next three weeks.

S Casket (Holdings)—Lord Barnet: Improvements continuing. Profits should break through into seven figures.

See—Raymond Miquel: Current year will be one of growth and consolidation and first half pre-tax profit will be ahead of the £19.05m reported end-December, 1983.

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